

Worker who revived little girl honoured at ceremony

HERO BUS DRIVER GETS TOP AWARD

Report by Steven Jones

A WALSALL hero bus driver who saved the life of a 17-month-old girl who had stopped breathing has been honoured at an awards ceremony.

Steven Welsh, who lives in Bentley, stole the show at the National Express Group Values Awards. The awards ceremony celebrates and recognises the work of teams and individuals across the business, which employs 47,000 people worldwide.



Boss Dean Finch congratulates Steven



Steven with Evie-Mai and her family

On April 12, Steven was driving a National Express West Midlands bus in Walsall when he noticed a man get out of a car with a toddler in his arms.

The young girl, Evie-Mai, had stopped breathing after having a fit and swallowing her tongue. Evie-Mai's father was terrified and shouted for help. Bus driver Steven safely stopped his bus and immediately went over to help, prising open little Evie-Mai's mouth, which had locked shut, and cleared her airways so she could start to breathe again.

In recognition of his heroic efforts, 37-year-old Steven was invited to join his colleagues from across the UK, Germany, Switzerland, Bahrain, Spain, Morocco and North America at the ceremony, which was held at the London Transport Museum.

Ovation

During the ceremony, presenter Victoria Fritz announced him as the winner of a special Chief Executive Award.

He received a standing ovation as he collected the award from the company's chief executive, Dean Finch.

Steven said: "I have been simply blown away by the recognition I have had and by the support I have had given to me by colleagues. This one's for Walsall."

Evie-Mai's mother, Charlotte Millington, said: "Evie's dad and I are unbelievably thankful for what Steven did."

"He saved our little girl's life and we wish there was something we could do to show him how grateful we are."

"I hope we stay in contact so Evie-Mai will grow up knowing that he is her superman."

Mr Finch said: "We are all extremely proud of Steven for saving Evie-Mai's life. It's not easy to remain calm in such a distressing situation but he didn't hesitate to help and he did the right thing. I was delighted to be able to present my Chief Executive Award to recognise his heroic efforts."

SUNNY CARNIVAL'S SHINING STARS



PROUDLY on display at Willenhall Carnival is Queen for the day, Natalie May Porter, with her attendants, back from left, Katie Palmer, Erin Porter and Chantelle Vernon. Centre, from left, are Summer Webster and Harvey Blighton, with, front, Alexa-Mae Nutting and Theo Harbon. Thousands enjoyed the spectacle on Saturday, which was soaked in sunshine.

● More pictures – Page 3

COURTS

Mylee: Father denies murder

THE father of eight-year-old stab victim Mylee Billingham has denied murdering the child. William Billingham pleaded not guilty when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Friday.

The 54-year-old from Valley View, Brownhills, also denied making a date to kill Mylee's mother on the same date.

He was remanded in custody to stand trial on September 17.

Mylee, who lived at nearby First Avenue, was pronounced dead in hospital after being found with a fatal knife wound to the chest at her father's bungalow at around 9.15pm on Saturday, January 20.

ARBORETUM

Leader angry at travellers' arrival

THE leader of Walsall Council has hit out after around 20 caravans set up camp at Walsall Arboretum over the weekend. It follows encampments at four other locations in the borough in the last week.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird said they were a 'nightmare' and although the council had an injunction in place to move them on, it required a court order which would not have been obtained until Monday morning. He added: "When they move off they leave filth and dirt and we have to clear up the mess – using tax payer's money."

RETAIL

Poundworld latest high street victim

POUNDWORLD has fallen into administration putting shops and jobs at risk in the latest blow to the high street.

Among those under threat is the budget chain's Reedswood Retail Park branch in Walsall and its Bloxwich High Street shop.

Attempts to save the firm failed after last-ditch sales talks broke down, meaning 5,100 jobs now hang in the balance.

INSIDE

Kicking off the World Cup



PAGES 22-23

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2 CONTENTS

RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
TICKET	19
WORLD CUP CHART	22-23
TV	24-26
PROPERTY	29-36
SPORT	43-44

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New housing role for MP Eddie Hughes



Walsall MP Eddie Hughes

AN MP has vowed to champion the Black Country in Westminster after being handed a junior role in the housing department. Eddie Hughes has joined the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as a parliamentary private secretary (PPS).

As a result of his new role, the Walsall North MP, who was first elected last year, announced he has stood down as chair of the 20,000-home landlord Walsall Housing Group (whg). Mr Hughes said: "Twelve months on from the general election I'm excited to be taking

on additional responsibilities. This role will allow me to further champion Walsall North and the West Midlands with Government ministers. I'm passionate about housing and hope I can use my professional experience to support ministers effectively in their duties. It is a real honour to be asked.

"As a result of taking on the new role I'm stepping down as chair of whg with immediate effect. I've spent many wonderful years working with this amazing housing association and with fantastic people. I look forward to continuing to

work with them as a local MP and thank everyone at whg for their support over the years."

Mr Hughes is a long-term member of the Chartered Institute of Building, and has spent most of his professional career working in construction and housing, having started as a civil engineer.

He has previously said he aspires to become a housing minister. His new role is not paid and is not a role within the Government. Mr Hughes added that it would not require him to spend any more time away from his constituency.

We will not rule out buying stadium, chief

A COUNCIL leader has said he would not rule out his authority buying Walsall Football Club's Banks's Stadium in the future.

The future of Saddlers' home has been the subject of speculation over recent years, with the club understood to be willing to discuss a potential sale. Mike Bird, who took over as Walsall Council leader following the local elections, said taking on the stadium could be an attractive proposition but that it was 'not on the agenda' at the moment.

The authority came under fire when it bought the Saddlers shopping centre last year when run by Labour but Councillor Bird said the football ground would make more financial sense. It comes after Saddlers fans won a bid their bid to protect the Banks's Stadium after being granted legislation to list the building as a community asset last month.

Conversation

Councillor Bird, who leads the Conservative-controlled council, said he had previously held talks with Walsall owner about the possibility of the council buying the stadium.

He said: "I have had that conversation on many occasions with Jeff Bonser. The income on the Banks's Stadium would be a far better option than buying a retail centre. There are always choices and the choices we make is what people measure us on. But it is not on the agenda at the moment."

Pressed on the possibility of it being on the agenda in the future, Councillor Bird said it 'could be'.

The application for the asset of community value made by Walsall Football Supporters Trust was approved by Walsall Council and means the group must be notified if the ground is to be sold. They will then have six months to put together their own bid for the stadium. The Banks's Stadium is currently owned by club chairman Jeff Bonser.

Exhibition celebrates museum's 30th



Francesca Cox from the museum with bunting and a cake as she prepares for the celebrations

THE 30th anniversary of Walsall Leather Museum is being celebrated through an extra special exhibition. 'Celebrate' showcases the work of 26 leading contemporary designers, makers and companies working in leather in the UK.

The exhibition, which will run until September 29, will demonstrate the beauty and versatility of leather as a material and will feature sculptures, jewellery, exquisite bookbindings and handcrafted bags.

The show includes work by designer glover Riina Oun who has worked with leading fashion designers including Giles Deacon and Jean-Pierre Braganza, award-winning Georgina Brett Chinnery, and designer shoemaker Caroline Groves.

It will also feature work by many top Walsall companies including Ettinger, Whitehouse Cox and Launer. Assistant curator at Walsall Leather Museum, Francesca Cox, said: "We are all so excited

about our forthcoming birthday and the opening of our anniversary exhibition Celebrate.

"We are thrilled to be able to exhibit the work of so many leading leather workers at the museum. The show looks lovely and we are sure our visitors are going to love it."

The museum opened the exhibition on Saturday at noon at a celebratory event which saw see the unveiling of the newly refurbished Made in Walsall gallery.

Primary youngsters mark NHS milestone

PRIMARY school children have been joining in with celebrations for the 70th birthday of the NHS.

Children from Fibbersley Park Academy, in Willenhall, interviewed New Cross Hospital staff, created a display which will go up during the week of the milestone in July and enjoyed sessions on a range of topics.

The Year 5 class also interviewed hospital staff about their roles and local historian Roy Stallard.

Mr Stallard was a former heart patient at New Cross Hospital and has been lending a hand to create the display of historical artefacts to mark NHS 70.

Chris Scordis, team leader at Cardiac Rehab, said: "The children excelled themselves in their engagement with the activities. They loved interviewing members of the team and having the opportunity to visit the SIM ward at New Cross."

"They also had a hand-washing session with one of the nurses and produced a booklet which they will sell to raise funds for the Coronary Aftercare Support Group charity."

"It was great for them to find out about all the different job roles in the NHS and spend time out of the classroom visiting the hospital."

Bars told to take World Cup steps

PUBS and bars across the Black Country have been urged to take steps to try and prevent trouble during the World Cup, which starts today, Thursday.

Teams from Wolverhampton Council have been visiting venues ahead of the tournament in a bid to ensure it passes off peacefully.

Managers have been asked to make sure safety measures are in place, CCTV is working correctly and all staff members are alert to any suspicious behaviour. The new advice produced by the British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA) has been developed with the support of the Local Government Association and the National Police Chiefs' Council.

Councillor Steve Evans, cabinet member for city environment at Wolverhampton Council said: "It is vital that venues are aware of the importance of health and safety standards before hosting World Cup events. I welcome the new guidance and hope that licensees follow the advice."

Roadworks on way

DRIVERS will face delays along a busy route in Bloxwich. Temporary traffic lights will be up in Willenhall Lane, close to the junction of Moorland Road, starting on Monday, June 18 and ending on June 29.

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Local heroes tell of their pride over royal awards

EXTRAORDINARY people across the Black Country have been honoured and celebrated in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list.

A volunteer blood bike rider from Cradley Heath, police officers and a local historian and charity worker have all been recognised, among many others.

The Queen's Honours are awarded every year near the Queen's Birthday, to highlight the inspirational work of local community figures.

West Bromwich historian Terry Price, age 79, who lives on the Yew Tree estate, was awarded a BEM for his services to his community. Among many other charity endeavours, Mr Price was the driving force behind the four-metre stone tribute of famous 1940s actress Madeleine Carroll, who was born locally, in West Bromwich New Square.

He said: "I feel very honoured that my work has been recognised in this way. It is also an honour for the people of West Bromwich and Great Bridge who have supported my endeavours over the last 50 years and most of all my wife Beryl who has been the driving force behind me during this time."

David Pearce from Cradley Heath said he was 'absolutely stunned' when he heard he had received a BEM (British Empire Medal) in this year's awards list.

The 44-year-old father is a trustee and volunteer rider for Midland Free-wheelers Blood Bikes Charity and was granted the honour for his voluntary and charitable services to healthcare.

Two local officers of West Midlands Police were also honoured. Pc Hubert 'Hughie' Treasure, from Dudley, has been awarded an MBE for his work with young people, while special chief officer Michael Rogers from Wolverhampton received the same award due to his 'remarkable' contribution to the volunteer police force.

Oh baby! Mums get fitness bug

MOTHERS are joining in fitness sessions – and taking their babies with them. Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis Club has been hosting buggy squad training sessions, which involve babies becoming part of the exercise routine.

Dee Cooper, who came up with the idea for the sessions with WLTSC head of fitness Paul Fothergill, said: "It started off as a bit of a trial, but the club has been really good with it and it has become a regular session which we all really enjoy."

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£7.8m centre development gathers pace



The work under way at the site

A MULTI-MILLION pound project to change the face of a town centre is making progress before its completion at the end of this year.

Work on the Wisemore Central development, next to Tesco Extra, is well under way after builders moved onto the site in April. This image shows diggers and a huge crane have been drafted in to help the £7.8 million scheme move forward.

A huge pillar and sections of metal work to build the skeleton of the building have so far been erected at the site. The project, which is set

to create up to 120 jobs, will see a 60-bedroom Travelodge Hotel built as well as a McDonald's fast-food restaurant.

Meanwhile, a further 15,000 sq ft of leisure and retail premises will also be coming to the town.

Councillor Aftab Nawaz, who represents the St Matthew's town centre ward in Walsall, is pleased to see work progressing.

He said: "The development is really welcome in Walsall. Hopefully with the hotel there and McDonald's being built it will bring people not only into

the area, but that part of Stafford Street could do with more football – particularly at times when retail has been in the headlines for all the wrong reasons. A hotel opening is a sign that people are hopeful of business in Walsall. I'm looking forward to it opening up and I know the McDonald's will be really busy when it opens its doors. I just hope the project will bring more people into the town."

Between 100 part-time and 120 full-time jobs will be created once the project to transform the current derelict site is complete.

Thousands turn out for sun-drenched carnival



From left, Delroy Brown, Cody Burton, Gemma Shaw and Lydia Ashcroft-Brown



Enjoying themselves in fancy dress, are left, Kenzi Oliver aged nine and Alfie Oliver, seven



Deputy mayor Paul Bott and his wife Chris are shown around the carnival by councillors Sean and Diane Coughlan



Flying the flag, at this very patriotic time of year as England prepare for the World Cup, is Kathleen Maydaw

SOARING temperatures and the beaming sun soaked the Black Country as thousands turned out for Willenhall Carnival.

The annual event is the most popular in town's calendar and saw up to 2,000 people from the local area flood through the gates at Willenhall Memorial Park in Pinson Road.

The fun-filled extravaganza dates back to the 1920s and a host of activities and entertainment took place for

families to enjoy throughout the day.

Some of the highlights of the carnival, which took place on Saturday afternoon, included a dog show, dancers, a fun fair and the crowning of the carnival royalty.

This year's Carnival Queen Natalie May Porter arrived to the park on a float before being crowned by Deputy Mayor Paul Bott in front of the crowds. It costs £5,000 to run Willenhall Carnival and the committee which organises the event holds fundraisers throughout the year to help fund it.

Committee chair Wayne Palmer, aged 43, said: "It was a fantastic day

– the sun came out for us and people flooded through the gates. I've been on the committee for seven years and it's my second year of running it.

"What we're looking to do each year is just to get the carnival bigger and better, with more attractions and store holders so we can have a great big community event in Willenhall.

"We had 2,000 people come along last year and I'm anticipating the same this year. We did an initial round-up in the first hour and a half and 800 came through the gates.

"It's great to see so many people out here – the community cohesion from

it you can't measure it really." There were well over 50 local stalls at the event while singers performed during the event as well as a falconry display, car boot sale, disco dome, inflatables, juggling, face painting and more.

Willenhall Councillor and leader of the Labour group on Walsall Council Sean Coughlan arrived home from a holiday away early with his wife Diane in order to attend the event. He said: "I've been coming to this carnival since I was about three. It's fantastic and I've escorted the Mayor around for the last 20 years on behalf of the carnival committee."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Housing group in pledge on abuse

ONE of the region's largest housing providers has signed up to a national campaign to help tackle domestic abuse. Longhurst Group, which manages more than 1,200 properties in Walsall and more than 1,500 in Birmingham, has pledged its support to the Make a Stand campaign.

The initiative centres around a pledge which has been developed by the Chartered Institute of Housing in partnership with Women's Aid and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance.

It consists of four commitments to support people that live and work in housing who are experiencing domestic abuse.

Chance to share views with police

MEMBERS of the community are invited to share their concerns with police officers later this month.

Darlaston Neighbourhood Policing Team will help work out solutions to local problems at their first ever world cafe that is being held next Tuesday at All Saint's Church, Walsall Road, Darlaston.

World cafe's are a new way of exploring local problems and solutions in a relaxed atmosphere over a cuppa and cake.

The event will start at 6pm. Places are strictly limited, so book now to secure a place.

Witnesses sought after cyclist hurt

POLICE are on the hunt for information after a cyclist was seriously injured in a crash in Birmingham. The 46-year-old was involved in a collision with an Audi A3 on the B4128 Borderley Green East at around 10.40pm on Sunday.

He was taken to hospital with a serious head injury where he remains critical. The road was closed while traffic officers carried out initial investigations. The driver remained at the scene and has been assisting with enquiries. Anyone with information should call 101 quoting incident 2792.

Homes set for former British Lion Works site

A RUNDOWN former engineering site will be demolished and turned into homes.

Plans to transform the former British Lion Works site on Forest Lane in Walsall were have been accepted by council chiefs.

Zebra Architects were behind the project to see the industrial units at the site turned into 18 homes. As part of the proposals, an associated access road and parking will be introduced.

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COUNTY NEWS

Comic Rob takes charity ball helm

BUSINESSES are being urged to snap up tickets for a gala ball in Birmingham raising money for the NSPCC.

Comedian Rob Deering has been revealed as the host of this year's NSPCC Laughter Ball, which takes place on November 2 at the ICC.

Rob Deering

Rob, whose tours and appearances on TV and radio have won him a dedicated following, will compete the event. Last year's ball raised £57,000 for the charity.

Single tickets or tables of 10 are available for the ball, which starts at 6.30pm. Call 0121 227 7578 or midlandsappeals@nspcc.org.uk.

University climbs up league table

A NUMBER of courses at Birmingham City University have improved their ranking in a league table.

Several courses have risen up the Guardian's annual university league tables.

The university's acting course, housed in the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, is now ranked as the UK's third best course after moving up from fourth in last year's table. Elsewhere, nursing and midwifery climbed to 18th place nationally, almost halving its previous position of 30 in the table, while the education course now sits in 17th position and is the highest ranked of any West Midlands institution.

Date for hearing on ex-Villa player

A PRE-INQUEST hearing into the death of former Aston Villa footballer Dalian Atkinson will take place in October. It was due to be held last week but will now take place on October 3 at Shirehall in Shrewsbury.

Mr Atkinson died after being shot with a Taser outside his father's house in Trench on August 15, 2016.

The striker was best known for his solo goal against Wimbledon in 1992, which won Match of the Day's Goal of the Season award.

Orchestra set to play the classics

PEOPLE are being invited to attend an evening of classical music. Halesowen Orchestra are performing a host of classical pieces at Cornbow Hall on July 7 from 7.30pm until 9.30pm to entertain lovers of the genre.

Tickets cost £10 per person and can be purchased on the door, or to secure seats in advance and guarantee a seat, by calling 01210 550956.

Dedicated service rewarded by Queen



Positive Participation provides mental health help



Members and coaches of Priory Park Boxing Club



Manor Farm Community Association

Committed volunteers earn royal recognition

MORE than a dozen groups have received royal recognition for their voluntary work.

The organisations across the Black Country and Staffordshire were honoured for their commitment and dedication with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Among the recipients was the Beacon Centre for the Blind, in Sedgley. Chief executive Arwyn Jones said: "The gift that our volunteers give to people every week by donating their time and energy really is fantastic."

Julie Wilson, bereavement services manager at Wolverhampton's Compton Care, said she was proud of its volunteers. "We are over the moon their hard work has been recognised in this way," she said.

The Staffordshire Police Cadets Service was rewarded for its guidance scheme for 13-to-17-year-olds. Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis said: "The cadet scheme would not be possible without volunteers."

Wolverhampton Wheelers Club president Robin Kyte said of its award: "The club would simply not exist without those who give their most precious resources - their time and passion."

Other winners: Spotlight Youth Productions, Brownhills; Positive Participation, providing specialist Asian mental health services in Wolverhampton; Manor Farm Community Association, Walsall; Stourbridge Pastors; Midlands Langar Seva Society, Walsall; Burntwood & District Community First Responders; Rugeley & District Community First Responders; Priory Park Boxing Club, Dudley.



Beacon Centre for the Blind's 'fantastic' team



Wolverhampton Wheelers freely give their time



Spotlight Youth Productions



Staffordshire Police Cadets Service



A Compton Care colour run

11-year-old schoolgirls suspended over knives

TWO 11-year-old girls have been suspended after they took large knives into their primary school.

Leaders took action after the knives were discovered in the pupils' bags at Hamstead Junior School in Great Barr. Their actions sparked alarm at the school, which has suspended both youngsters.

Headteacher Tim Bowen said nobody was threatened with the blades but the children had put everyone 'at risk' by bringing them into the school, on Hamstead Road.

The girls have been excluded and the police were called.

In a letter to parents, Mr Bowen said: "School has had to act quickly and decisively in order to tackle a very dangerous issue. Two pupils brought large knives in their school bags into school this morning."

"Although no child was threatened this action put all members of the school at considerable risk."

"In response the school has acted in line with policy and procedure."

"Possession of knives was reported to the police who are now dealing with the act. That two pupils have been excluded until further local authority advice has been received."

The girls were spoken to by police after the knives were handed over.

A police spokesman said: "Police are investigating."

"The knives were confiscated by the school and subsequently handed over to the police later that day."

The pupils have been spoken to by the police and they are being referred to the youth offending team.

Guided tours of historic venue

PEOPLE can take a look behind the scenes at Himley Hall. A season of guided tours kicks off next month.

Visitors can look around rooms not usually open to the public with the extensive guided tours taking in the servants' quarters and cellars, the butler's sitting room and the Earl of Dudley's bedrooms. Also on view will be the refurbished north wing complete with art deco style swimming pool room and cinema bar.

The 90-minute tours start at 7.15pm and 7.30pm on July 10, 12 and 18, and August 2, 8, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30. Cost is £8 per person.

There are 24 places available each evening with each tour accommodating up to 12 people. Call 01384 817817 or visit www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Foiled raiders flee premises

THIEVES tried to break in to two houses in Walsall but left empty-handed. The attempted burglaries took place just two miles away from each other last Wednesday.

The first, which happened in Cameron Road at about 2am, saw them then access the rear garden before snapping the lock to a conservatory door. They were foiled by deadlocks on the door and couldn't get in.

Meanwhile, at about 2.10am, in Athlone Road, the thieves again approached the rear of the house, snapping the backdoor lock to gain entry. But while looking around they were disturbed by the occupant and fled.

Theme park under fire over offer

DRAYTON Manor's £10 ticket offer has come under fire with complaints flooding in about the theme park's website crashing.

The online-only offer gives visitors the chance to pick up a limited number of full-access tickets to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Thomas Land. But frustration has been building on social media, with users complaining the site has been timing out before their purchase is complete.

Twitter user @Staceyw13545684 said: "Your website isn't built to handle it. I have been waiting patiently for 2 hours."

Mercedes outside home is stolen

CROOKS stole a Mercedes E220 from a home in Walsall.

The car was stolen between 11.55pm on Sunday June 3 and 1.40am last Monday, from Greenslade Road in Walsall.

PCSO Kevin Pitt said: "It is not known how access was gained to the vehicle or how it was driven away."

"If you have any information that may assist the police please contact us on 101 quoting reference number 20WS/123664B/18."

"Alternatively call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Four-year-old hit by car to be discharged

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD who was hit by a car in Walsall is due to be discharged from hospital. The boy was hit in Darlaston Road, Pleck, just before 7.30pm on Sunday June 3 and his injuries were thought to be life-threatening.

He was rushed to Birmingham Children's Hospital but scans revealed there were no serious head injuries.

Police confirmed the driver stopped at the scene and provided a negative breath test.

Gang target store in raid to leave with cigarettes

ARMED raiders smashed through the windows of a shop with a sledgehammer and stole a quantity of cigarettes

Police are hunting three men who were armed with the hammer and an angle grinder when they broke into the Tesco Express, in Hamstead Road, Great Barr.

They used the sledgehammer to smash the windows of the store to gain entry at around midnight on Saturday, June 2. They then forced open a counter by cutting through with an angle grinder.

They fled the scene with a quantity of cigarettes. Cara Lanni, a spokesman for West Midlands Police, said: "Police were called to reports of a burglary at a Tesco Express store in Hamstead Road just before 12am on Saturday evening."

"It is believed three offenders have pulled up in a car, where they have gained access to the store by smashing the windows with a sledgehammer. Once inside, they have forced open the cigarette counter with an angle grinder and taken a quantity of cigarettes, before leaving the scene. Investigations are ongoing."

Anyone with information about the raid is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101, quoting incident reference number 3329 of June 2. It comes less than two months after a security worker was shoved to the floor during a robbery at the same store.

Health-boosting walks in the parks

A SERIES of free health boosting walks has been announced.

People are invited to join the strolls through three historic parks in Lichfield that are running twice a month until October.

The gentle walks which are running at Beacon Park, Minster Pool & Walk, and Stowe Pool & Fields are open to everyone of any age.

Upcoming walks will take place on June 20, July 14 and 18, August 1 and 15, September 5 and 19 and October 3 and 17.

Participants simply need to meet at Beacon Park's Ranger Station next to the crazy golf course, at 10.45am in time to set off at 11am. To double check whether a walk is running, call Beacon Park on 01543 308867.

Train breaks down

A BROKEN-DOWN train forced services to be cancelled.

Some services had to be cancelled between Rugeley and Walsal last Tuesday afternoon, while others were delayed.

More than £1k raised for ransacked club



The ransacked club after the yobs hit

FOOTBALL fans have rallied together to help raise more than £1,000 for a non-league club struck by thugs.

Raiders ransacked Rushall Olympic Football Club in Walsall last week, causing £40,000 worth of damage in the process.

Following the incident, the club launched a crowdfunding page in hope of receiving financial support to pay for recovery costs.

Now, just days after the campaign was started, kind-hearted people have pledged their cash in order to help the club get back on track.

In total, 40 supporters have made donations to help reach the total of £1,400 – well over the initial target of £1,000.

Vice-chairman of the club, Nick Dean, said: "We've been overwhelmed by the messages of support and donations being made."

"It really does help restore your faith in humanity."

The thieves left a trail of destruction behind them following the incident in the early hours of Thursday May 31 – even emptying cans of soup and spreading butter all over the club

of the Dales End ground. They also stole the team's £25,000 mini-bus before using it as a battering ram to smash down the gates and escape the scene.

West Midlands Police is appealing for anyone who has information about the incident to call 101. Alternatively call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their website. The crime reference number is 20WS/120607Q/18.

To donate to the fundraising page go to www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rushalloympicfc

Man is jailed for having sex with 15-year-old girl

A MAN who started a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old girl has been locked up for four years.

Timothy Micklewright, aged 37, took the victim to his home on May 26 last year, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Andrew Wilkins, prosecuting, said there had been some sexual contact between the two before then with her sending six images of herself, five of which were intimate.

When she visited Micklewright and went to the bedroom he took his clothes off and undressed her before sexual activity took place, the court was told.

Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending, declared: "When she asked him to stop he did."

"The relationship had lasted some weeks and I accept there was an element of grooming but she sent the images without invitation and she never complained to police about this. He told them."

Exonerated

The lawyer maintained the defendant acted out of character after turning to drink to 'self-medicate' the feeling of depression that followed his suspension from work during an investigation.

He was the manager of a bookmaker branch where money had allegedly disappeared but was exonerated by the inquiry which concluded it had been a banking error.

Micklewright, who was of previous good character and from Proffitt Street, Walsall, admitted sexual activity with a child under 16 and possession of indecent images.

"The nature of the offence and its stigma means he will have to live with this for the rest of his life," concluded Mr Woolhouse.

The defendant was jailed by Judge Amjad Nawaz who told him: "There had been some interest shown by the girl but the age difference was quite significant and the fact is that you were an adult and she was a child. You should have known better."

Micklewright was given a four year prison sentence and made the subject of a Sexual Harm Prevention Order which bans him for unsupervised contact with girls aged under 16.

Village seeks a blooming great result



Councillor James Slim and his son Dylan, aged eight, with one of the entries for this year's Essington In Bloom

ESSINGTON is targeting first-time success in its debut 'In Bloom' entry this month.

The village is preparing for its first ever 'Essington In Bloom' when the judges visit on June 25.

Three gardens have come together through the community-led scheme that has seen the local school and church get involved, as well as a nature garden encouraging children to take part.

Parish councillor and Essington In Bloom organiser James Slim said: "I saw Wednesfield In Bloom and how well they had done and thought it was a great way to get the community involved."

"I decided to register Essington and it's taken off since! We've been getting the children involved and teaching them great lessons such as warnings against litter, as well as getting them outdoors

and engaged in gardening. We have a small budget and it was concerning, but people have come together and have come up with great ideas to fundraise."

Councillor Slim said he was confident on Essington scoring high, adding: "I think we'll score well on community involvement and the focus on environmental issues, especially with the church garden being made of recycled tyres."

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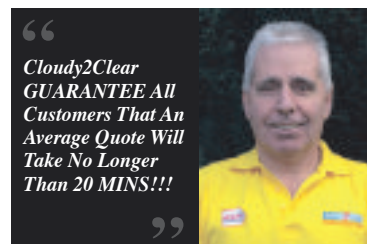
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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Not just a store but a part of our fabric

FAREWELL to Beatties, then. It seems incredible to even write these words. Just 15 years ago, that would have been inconceivable. Back then, Beatties was not just a store, it was part of the fabric of the Midlands, a throwback to a bygone age when shopping was all about personal service and individuality.

And then House of Fraser came along. The Beatties name, which carried so much weight in the Midlands, was casually discarded on all but two of the stores because it "lacked resonance" with the corporate bods in London. The famous restaurant, which pulled in so many customers on a Saturday lunchtime, became a self-service cafe. Its quirky and distinctive clothing ranges were replaced with drab own-brand lines pretty much the same as in any other chainstore.

In short, they bought Grace Brothers. And turned it into BHS.

The sad thing is that recently Beatties showed signs of getting some of its mojo back. Just little touches, such as the man on the door in the top hat. It made Beatties feel like, well, Beatties again.

It looks like being too little too late, with the eye-watering business rates being a major factor in Beatties imminent demise. Reportedly, it had been paying something like £500,000 every year on the Wolverhampton store, which now seems a bit like killing the goose that laid the golden egg. Of course, business rates are set by national government, it still remains the case that an empty building won't generate much for the public coffers.

Perhaps it is time to re-think the way business rates are calculated. How can it be right that our beleaguered towns and cities, which are the lifeblood of cohesive communities, are being decimated by crippling rates, while out-of-town retail parks and online-shopping warehouses, are let off practically scot-free?

Surely these out-of-the-way locations, which lead to more car journeys and heavy-lorry movements, place more of a strain on our infrastructure – and indeed the environment – than the traditional high street?

There may have once been an argument, in the days when a prime town centre location was a licence to print money, for charging extra in rates. But as out-of-town warehouses suck the life out of our towns and cities, this surely no longer holds water.

It is time for the internet giants and the out-of-town retailers to pay their way, and give our town centres a bit of respite.

Otherwise, a generation from now, we might look back at what we have lost. And wonder how we ever allowed this to happen.

Leaving out one word can be deeply misleading



2018 abortion referendum – I hope historians give full credit to Father Ted



No croaker – Scottish actor Daisy Haggard in real life actually talks normally



Meera Syal – right decision to study drama rather than medicine as her parents wanted

Why I'm against language trend

I'VE no idea what some folk have against the word "against" but it seems to be passing out of our language. The trend began in the United States where defendants routinely "appeal the verdict" or "protest the legislation." Over here, I found a newspaper report about a controversial forestry plan where local people "protested the felling."

IT gets worse. A radio report on the BBC told us about activists "demonstrating land seizures" when they were actually demonstrating against land seizures. Leaving out one little word is not only lazy but can be deeply misleading. I am very much against it. Or in modern usage, I am very much *in* it. JOB opportunities in the movies. The interminable credits for the time-travel romp *Outlander* (Sony Pictures TV) reveal that the production team includes a "dimmer board operator." If they paid better wages they might get a brighter one.

I WROTE recently about the hazards of 'smart' devices scanning the contents of our fridges and suggesting tasty menus using whatever we have in stock. My fear was that 'artificial intelligence' (now, there's an oxymoron) may not understand that we humans keep some non-food items in the fridge, including contact-lens solution and suchlike. A reader draws us into grimmer territory: "I currently have a tube of ointment for an anal fissure. Recipe suggestions, please?" Offhand, I can only think of wince pies.

THE aftermath from Bishop Curry's sermon at the Royal Wedding rumbles on. A reader takes me to task for being underwhelmed and encourages me to obey the bit about loving everybody, including my neighbours and my enemies. It has always struck me, even in my chapel-going

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



days, that love was rather a powerful and extreme emotion to lavish upon all and sundry. If you love your enemy what are you supposed to feel for your parents, your spouse or your children? I love my nearest and dearest. I respect, tolerate, admire or dislike the rest of humanity, depending entirely on how they behave.

"THERE are many more people alive today because I didn't become a doctor." Writer and actor Meera Syal on her decision to study drama at university rather than medicine as her parents wanted.

HAVE you ever thought what a happier world this would be if we were all tucked up in bed at 10pm? The recent crop of deeply defamatory tweets and texts horrifying America were mostly sent in the wee small hours and have been blamed variously on medication or tiredness. No surprises there. Most of the vitriolic messages that plunk into my in-box are sent after midnight and sometimes carry tell-tale hints of being booze or medicine-related. Nothing brings out the fearless critic in Joe Public quite like four pints of lager and a nasal spray.

I WAS astonished to find 'zombie knives' on open sale on Google News pages referring to the Croydon knife attack. I left it 24 hours – plenty of time to take down such adverts – and looked again. This time, the two genuine zombie knives were joined by an advert for a £2.79 'Blood-stained screamer knife'. It turns out to

be an accessory toy for Halloween. So that's all right, then.

A YOUNGOV survey of 20,000 people found that youngsters are less likely to feel proud of being English than older people. I'm surprised because today's over-60s grew up in an age when Englishness was barely mentioned. Back then, we were all British. Then Scottish nationalism kicked off and the reaction south of the border was a sort of Englishness that goes with tattoos, football and owning unpleasant dogs. Being British was always wiser, kinder and more inclusive than being English and there is life, and pride, in old GB yet.

IRELAND voted for abortion because Ireland no longer does what the Catholic Church tells it to do. That change is partly due to scandals involving dodgy priests and sadistic nuns but also to a rare comic creation who, on a weekly basis, mercilessly mocked the institution. When the historians write about the 2018 abortion referendum, I hope they give full credit to Father Ted.

SO. Having gotten used to one American import, namely the starting of sentences with 'so', a reader points out a new irritation, namely the female frog-croak. As he puts it: "It is the Americanism of drifting the end of sentences into a deep croak. Our youngsters are taking this on board at an ever increasing rate. 'Can't argue with that. Yet some Brits must share the blame. A croaker-in-chief is Myra, the humourless American head of comedy in Episodes (BBC2), and yet she is played by the Scottish actor Daisy Haggard who in real life talks normally."

TALKING POINT



Goal? Oh no I just popped out for a lolly!

IS it really four years since the last one? Yes it's the World Cup – again! This time, as much has been said about the off-field developments as how good, or bad, any particular country will fare on the pitch.

Which is interesting, as it occurred to me that the more World Cups I live through, the less I remember about the football. I recalled a number of occasions which stand out, going all the way back to England's finest moment – 1966.

Yes, I was as excited as anyone by the extra-time victory over West Germany, and yes I breathed a sigh of relief that our ancient Ekco television stayed on all the way through the tournament.

But England's quarter-final match is notable for the fact that on hearing the chimes of the ice cream van down the street, I nipped out for an ice lolly, taking advantage of the fact that although he had been sent off for dissent, Argentina's Antonio Rattin refused to leave the pitch. No problem, Rattin was still arguing with the ref when I returned. He finally gave in NINE minutes after being dismissed.

Sixteen years later, timing was crucial again. Having gone out for the day while on holiday in Wales, I was unaware I would get back to the caravan after England had kicked off against France.

Imagine my surprise, when popping into a farm for a pint of milk, to be greeted by "Such excitement, England have scored!" And that from a farmer's wife with the broadest Welsh accent I've ever heard. It turned out Bryan Robson had scored after 27 seconds to send England on their way to a famous 3-1 victory.

Then in 1990, the whistle could not come soon enough – the final between Argentina and West Germany, again while I was on holiday, this time in the Yorkshire Dales.

The reason? England had been knocked out in a semi-final penalty shoot-out by West Germany and my only way of dealing with the hurt was to turn my back on the TV during the final.

Fast forward to 2010 and while changing trains on the way back from a family function, I became aware that although I was listening to the commentary at ear-splitting volume on my personal radio, and England were seconds away from going through to the knockout stage, everyone around me carried on as if they'd never heard of the World Cup. Perhaps it was something to do with my being at Edinburgh's Haymarket station!

So, this time, whatever's happening on the pitch, don't hesitate to go and do some shopping or even just turn the TV off. Chances are, you won't miss a thing, but there again . . .

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Mayoral role now being used as a political pawn

ANYONE who has kept the behaviour of Walsall Council under close enough observation over the last 10 years will know of its inseparable difficulty in being led from the front by a political group that commands a clear overall majority to govern its affairs, resulting more often than not in the office of Mayor being used as a political pawn in a desperate quest for power.

The fact that it appears to be the only thing the Borough Fathers are capable of doing instead of giving any clear policy direction, speaks volumes

why the council is in such a sorry mess. As a former Mayor, it has also led me to seriously question how much prestige value is left to this once highly-respected civic position, which too often over recent years has been used as a stick with which to beat opponents.

So how can we remove this stigma which has blighted and tarnished such an historic public office, long since associated with the Town's very beginnings, and return it to its rightful place in the Borough's still unfolding story? One very plausible solution would be

to reconstitute the position of Mayor to perform only civic and ceremonial duties, leaving the quarrelsome business between political groups in the care of an appointed Council Chairman.

So through the columns of this page of letters I earnestly appeal to Walsall Council to get on board with this very suggestion before it sinks any lower to the floor of public esteem, and why not give the People of Walsall a vote in the matter

NORMAN S. MATTHEWS

Former Mayor of Walsall 1997-98

Memories of marking coronation

SIXTY-FIVE years on and the memories are still vivid – amazing to think that Queen Elizabeth, and her consort Prince Philip are still going strong.

I was aged seven at the time and lived in Rutter Street, Caldmore.

The street party planned was moved to the St Michaels Methodist Hall in Corporation Street, at the top of the road, due to very wet weather. We watched the actual event on the one and only tiny black and white box telly in a neighbour's house nearby.

The moms and dads worked so hard to provide cakes, pastries, sausage rolls, and celebrations galore. We danced and shouted, and had a great time. I was second in the fancy dress parade, as a herald made out of bread wrappers. Leslie Reynolds came first as a television. There was no money about but what fun we all had, such innocent fun.

PETER SMITH
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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On roads to ruin, with no solution

A JUSTIFIABLE theme in the letters columns of the Chronicle is the appalling state of the nation's roads.

This year I have experienced a form of whiplash, as a cyclist, with very little chance to enjoy a ride into the countryside without one or both wheels dropping into a pot-hole. Repair to the roads depend on two important factors – money and manpower. The amount of money made available by the Government to local councils is never enough and the councils themselves have limited resources.

When local authorities became 'enabling authorities' staff numbers were allowed to decrease as highway repairs were to be affected by the letting of private contracts. When that system was introduced it was inevitable that nothing much would be done.

ALAN DAVIS
Darlaston

PM has no care for our needs

THE PM is completely unsympathetic to the needs of the people of this country.

Care for the elderly, police cuts, NHS badly run with billions of pounds wasted in the procurement of equipment, medicines. Those in procurement agree to pay for grossly-overpaid medicines that can be purchased from a high street chemist.

Something is not right when the Government knows this but refuses to act. We have overcrowded prisons due to the Government's failure to deport around 10,000 foreign criminals plus illegal immigrants who have their appeals rejected.

The country is crying out for a financial transfusion to stop the haemorrhaging of the infrastructure.

Against this we now have the Government considering penalising tax-payers with a scheme to finance the NHS needs. So much for the UK being one of the six most rich countries!

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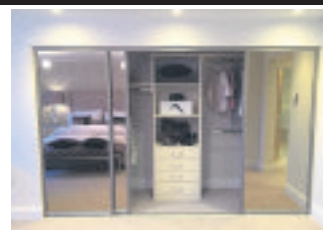
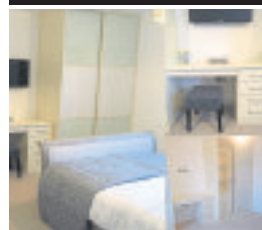
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Chris's free drink offer is just un-beer-lievable

ONE Brownhills pub is making the beautiful game taste that much better by offering locals a free pint whilst watching the World Cup.

From today, Thursday, The Hussey Arms on Chester Road North, is giving away free pints of a limited edition beer - created with sporting legend and TV personality, Chris Kamara.

To celebrate the summer of sport, the easy drinking, light ale is aptly named, 'Un-BEER-lievable' and will be available at 800 pubs nationwide.

A free pint will be available to anyone who watches the football at the pub and downloads the new, free Greene King Season Ticket app. The app gives football fans access to 10 per cent off drinks one hour before, during and one hour after sports matches at 800 Greene King Season Ticket pubs nationwide.

Liam Booth-Isherwood, general manager at The Hussey Arms, said: "With a packed summer of sport to enjoy, it's the perfect time to gather your mates together for a night at the pub. This year though, we're giving locals an extra reason to swap their sofa spectating for the unbeatable atmosphere of the pub - with a pint of beer they didn't have to pay for!

Un-BEER-lievable is a light ale with citrus notes and a crisp, bitter finish. The limited edition beer will be on sale at The Hussey Arms and Greene King pubs nationwide from Thursday 14 June.

To claim a free pint, locals must download the Greene King Season Ticket app from the App Store. Alternative complimentary drinks are available on request including, pints on draught, bottles and soft drinks.



Try one of Kammy's special brews during the World Cup at the Hussey Arms

Force body cams 'on target'

A REGION-wide roll-out of body cameras for police officers is 'well on course'. West Midlands Police will be handing the body-worn videos to all its frontline uniformed officers. Plans for the new scheme are going well, with officers expected to be wearing the new devices by the end of this summer.

Richard Cooke, chairman of the West Midlands Police Federation, said: "I have used body-worn video as

a response officer for some time now. It's an added protection for our hard-pressed officers, gives members of the public extra confidence, and offers excellent evidence which can be used to prosecute criminals more quickly.

"It has also been shown by academic studies to significantly reduce complaints against officers. I'm really pleased that all our frontline staff will soon have ready access to it."



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Free rabbit health check offer at vets



Jo Civil, receptionist at 387 Vets, with the cuddly 'guess the name of the bunny' prize

VETS are urging owners to take advantage of free rabbit health checks. 387 Veterinary Centre in Walsall Road, Great Wyrley, is running free health checks for pet rabbits as part of an initiative to support June's Rabbit Awareness Week (RAW). The health checks will be available for the whole month and attendees also take home a free goodie bag themed around the focus of RAW 2018 which is 'Move away from Muesli'.

Clinical director Hamish Duncan said: "Muesli-style diets can be unhealthy for lots of reasons. They can increase the risk of digestive problems, make rabbits more prone to dental disease and overgrown teeth from the lack of fibre and chewing activity, and can cause rabbits to become overweight."

There will also be a 'Guess the name of the bunny' competition for the chance to win a cuddly toy rabbit. All money raised will be donated to the charity Animal Welfare. The competition winner will be announced on the practice's Facebook page at the beginning of July. To book a free rabbit health check, call the practice on 01922 411755.

MP backs initiative for social housing

MP Eddie Hughes has pledged his support for an innovative scheme that has helped to transform the lives of social housing customers on a Walsall estate.

The House2Home scheme, from Birmingham-based housing provider Friendship Care and Housing, has supported hundreds of customers on the Beechdale estate.

By David Banner

The scheme, which launched in 2015, trains customers in a range of tenancy matters from sourcing affordable furnishing to accessing rent statements online and is designed to help develop life-long skills as well as helping to sustain successful tenancies. It is the second House2Home project that Friendship has established, following a successful pilot scheme in Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

FCH is part of Longhurst Group, one of the leading housing providers in the Midlands and East of England. Friendship manages 1,246 homes on the Beechdale estate, with 1,674 customers.

As well as representing Walsall North as its Con-

servative MP, Mr Hughes is also the chair of WHG Housing Association.

Speaking as he was shown the project by Longhurst Group's Executive Director of Partnerships, Jonathan Drifill, he said: "It was great to meet with people from Friendship Care and Housing and learn more about the fantastic work that they do on Beechdale, through the House2Home initiative."

"The idea that people can be supported as customers to ensure that they can sustain their tenancy and get help with things like obtaining furniture and household maintenance, is fantastic."

"It's brilliant to see that work being done."

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10
The Chronicle Thursday, June 14, 2018

Star on his Mark as Doctor Dolittle

HARRY Potter and Fast Show star Mark Williams will appear as Doctor Dolittle at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. The 58-year-old Bromsgrove actor is also known for his roles in hit films such as 101 Dalmatians, The Borrowers, and Shakespeare in Love.



Mark Williams

The star's theatre credits include the likes of Art in the West End, Toast at the Royal Court and Tartuffe at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre among many others.

More recently, Williams has been entertaining afternoon TV viewers with his BBC costume drama whodunnit Father Brown.

Further casting for the show – that will be at the Lichfield Street venue from January 9 to February 9, 2019 – is yet to be announced.

Hospital chief confident of trust improving rating from watchdog

A HOSPITAL boss says he has been buoyed by what he has witnessed since taking charge and confident improvements are being made.

Richard Beeken became chief executive of the Walsall Healthcare Trust, which runs the town's Manor Hospital, in February.

The trust has suffered a difficult last few years and was labelled as 'inadequate' by the health regulator in 2015 before receiving a new rating of 'requires improvement' last year. Maternity services remained 'inadequate'.

Mr Beeken said he believes the trust is on right path and that he was hopeful of securing an improved rating from the Care Quality Commission at its next inspection.

He said the trust had experienced 'significant emergency pressures' during a 'difficult winter'. But latest figures have shown an improvement in its performance on A&E waiting times.

During April, 87.2 per cent of patients were seen within four hours. The figure remained below the Government target of 95 per cent but it is a significant improvement on recent weeks.

Mr Beeken said in a report to board members: "I may have only joined the trust recently – in February 2018 – but I have seen first-hand the excellent progress that has been made here so far. The focus is now on keeping up this momentum and not losing sight of what still needs to be done."

"After being rated as 'inadequate' by the Care Quality Commission following its 2015 inspection, the re-inspection the Trust had in June 2017 was an important

indicator for the organisation of how well it had responded to the issues identified.

"The new rating of 'requires improvement' given in December 2017 is an important step on the way to 'good and beyond'. The "outstanding" rating received for community services was also a real achievement."

"Maternity was the one service that remained 'inadequate' but the continuing drive to improve is monitored by the Trust, its commissioners, the CQC and NHS Improvement and significant change is being implemented and felt positively."



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Thousands turn out to cheer Ironman athletes

THOUSANDS of athletes from across the world lined up at Chasewater, near Brownhills, for an Ironman event which totalled over 70 miles.

In the end Elliot Smales ran away with the men's race in the Staffordshire Ironman 70.3 and Emma Pallant romped to victory in the women's event.

Things didn't get off to the best of starts as around 2,300 individual athletes and 40 relay teams from 30 different countries were forced to wait around for an hour as fog descended on the reservoir where the 1.2-mile swim formed the first leg of the gruelling triathlon.

This was followed by a 56-mile ride through the heart of the Staffordshire countryside, skirting Lichfield and Burton before crossing Cannock Chase and heading for Stafford where competitors quickly dismounted and began a 13.1-mile run through town centre streets, finishing at Market Square.

Delighted

Thousands packed the county town's narrow streets applauding and cheering on the competitors as they streamed through on the final leg of the triathlon. Athletes, spectators and local businesses were delighted with the switch from nearby Shugborough, which previously hosted event.

For delighted Smales, aged 23 and from Leeds, who only turned pro last year, this was his first Ironman triumph.

He said: "I felt really bad on the first lap of the run and thought of giving up but the support from the crowds there was amazing. That kind of reaction makes you stick at it and by the second lap I felt a lot better. The atmosphere



Winners Elliot Smales and Emma Pallant



Lining up ready to take the plunge



The cycling section gets under way



A competitor finishes his swim

on the run leg was far better than last year when I came third."

Meanwhile, Pallant, a 29-year-old Brit competing in the Staffordshire race for the first time – and with victories in South Africa and Barcelona already under her belt – said: "I loved

it. The atmosphere was great."

Staffordshire County Councillor Mark Winnington said: "Look down the main street. It is more crowded than on market day. It is a win-win situation and a brilliant event for the County."

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RSPCA in bird feeder alert after squirrels get stuck

AN animal charity has issued a warning after two squirrels became trapped in garden bird feeders within a couple of days.

An RSPCA inspector was called to a grey squirrel stuck in a metal feeder in the garden of a home in Loriners Grove, in Walsall, by the concerned homeowner on June 1.

The squirrel had managed to get into the feeder to eat bird food – but had got his head stuck and jaw trapped around one of the wires when trying to make his way out.

Sadly, the squirrel had to be put to sleep after becoming injured from being stuck in the feeder overnight.

The day before, the same inspector was called out to another squirrel which was stuck in a bird feeder in



The squirrel trapped in a bird feeder in the garden of the Walsall home

Old Hall Drive, Tamworth, and as she went to release that one he ran off.

Inspector Beth Boyd, who dealt with both incidents, said: "When I arrived

the poor squirrel was in a bad way – flies had laid eggs in his mouth overnight while he had been trapped.

"Looking at the bird feeder I am

quite surprised it managed to get in as it does look squirrel-proof but often once they have fed they can struggle to get out.

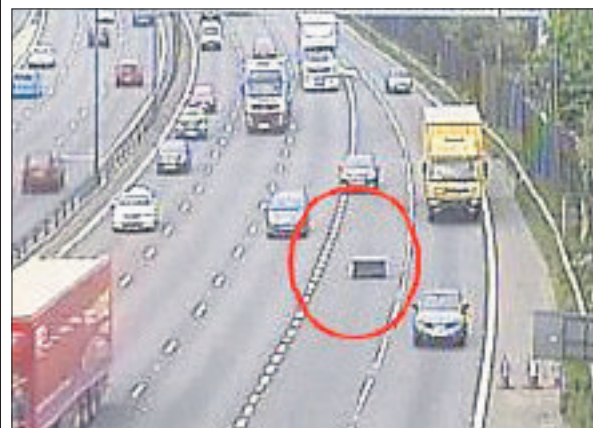
"Just the day before I was called to another incident like this.

"In this case the feeder had larger holes which did make it appear to be squirrel-proof – but it still managed to get stuck." The charity is urging people to keep an eye on all wildlife feeders in their garden to make sure animals and birds do not get stuck or injured.

She added: "There are many types of 'squirrel-proof' feeders available but it seems that a few could still trap wildlife such as rodents.

"I would urge people who have them to check their feeders regularly to look out for any trapped wildlife and if you are going on holiday take them down."

Sofa, not so good, on M6



A SOFA had to be removed from a lane of the M6 after it apparently fell off the back of a moving vehicle.

Highways England sent out a message on Twitter on Thursday urging drivers to be careful after the furniture was spotted on the link road

from M6 junction eight at Walsall to M5 southbound.

There was no sitting down on the job for the Highways team who made a quick journey to the area at about 5pm and removed the sofa while holding traffic.



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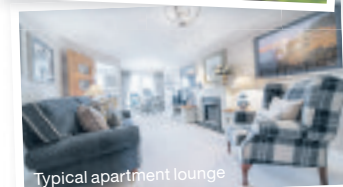
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Carer who stole £3,000 is jailed

A CARER, who fleeced the person he was supposed to be looking after in an 'utterly wicked and systematic way,' has been jailed for 20 months.

Cheru Allen took almost half of the benefits being paid into the bank account of the 35-year-old victim while pocketing £3,140 in 10 months to help feed his £50-a-day drug habit, a judge heard. The 26-year-old worked for CareTech Community Services, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

CareTech is an organisation that offers support and care to vulnerable people while allowing them to live as independently as possible.

One of Allen's tasks was to accompany the man to the bank and assist with the withdrawal of his money before filing details of the transaction in the staff personal money record, creating an audit trail, said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

The victim seldom left his room and never did so after 6pm which caused concern when it was discovered in November 2016 that withdrawals had been made later in the evening, continued the prosecutor.

Inquiries revealed Allen regularly took around £150-a-time in rogue transactions using the man's bank card and PIN number, either making an entry in the official log indicating less had been removed or taking the lot, the court heard. The bank account of the man disclosed the tell tale time of the withdrawals, the last of which had been in February 2016. They had started the previous April, said Mr Searle.

Allen, who was not sacked but left his job as a result of mental ill health, was not interviewed by police over the missing money until May last year, said Mr Stephen Cadwaladr, defending, who continued: "He is thoroughly ashamed of what he did."

Allen, from Dabchick Grove, Walsall pleaded guilty to theft and was jailed by Judge Barry Berlin.

Brick-built memories



The unique memorial with its modern design and bricks MIDLANDS Air Ambulance Charity's Air Pulse Memorial near Cannock Chase at Norton Canes Services in Staffordshire, is the perfect place to create a lasting memory of a loved one.

The memorial was unveiled in 2016 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the charity. It features a 4.6m tall sculpture, surrounded by 3,000 dedication brick pavers. These can be engraved with the name of a loved one and a special message. The dedication will be placed on a high quality Staffordshire Blue brick paver and engraved in gold text with a personalised message that will remain in place for up to 10 years.

A documentary has been created to demonstrate how the journey and purchase of a dedication brick can make the memory of a loved one make a difference to the lifesaving work the charity does. View the video at www.midland-sairambulance.com/in-memory. More information is also available on 0800 8 40 20 40.

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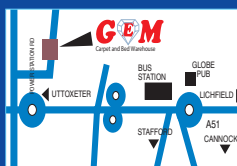
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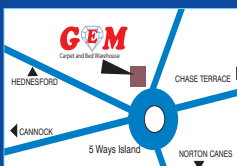


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14 Overhead lines poser sparks delays on tram

The Chronicle Thursday, June 14, 2018

MIDLAND Metro commuters faced disruption after overhead lines were damaged during the recovery of a broken tram.

People travelling through the Black Country from Wolverhampton were told to expect delays throughout last Friday. A tram broke down on the line at around 7pm on Thursday. When it was removed by engineers, the overhead cables were damaged in the process.

Passengers were then forced to get off and reboard a separate shuttle service which would take them into Birmingham. This was due to only a single tram line operating between the stop and its terminus at Grand Central.

The overhead lines had been damaged near the Soho Benson Street stop, said officials from Midland Metro.

During the Metro disruption, customers were told their tickets and passes were valid on bus services including on the number 74.

Police: Now it's the even thinner blue line as officer numbers fall

POLICE officer numbers in the West Midlands and Staffordshire have plummeted by more than 2,500 in a decade, according to the latest figures.

Staffordshire Police has seen a 26 per cent drop in officer numbers over the past seven years, more than any other force in England and Wales.

It leaves the county with 142 officers per 100,000 population. Only Wiltshire Police has fewer. West Midlands Police has lost 24

per cent in officer numbers over the period from 2010 to September last year – and has 228 officers per 100,000 population.

This dramatic drop is the fourth biggest of any force across England and Wales.

It comes at a time of rising levels of crime in both force areas – rising in the West Midlands by 14 per cent last year and in Staffordshire by 11 per cent.

West Midlands Police Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said the cuts 'have clearly had an impact on the preventative abilities of the force.'

The number of officers in the force fell

from 8,626 in 2010 to 6,535 last September. A spokesman for the force said it was moving through a 'significant programme of change and modernisation'. He said: "[The programme] is examining all functions across the organisation, looking at how we operate, whether there are ways to be more effective and more efficient."

Staffordshire has seen the biggest drop proportionally in officer numbers since 2010 compared to any other force in England and Wales – falling from 2,161 to 1,595 last September.

The force is currently undergoing a

change to its police model, reassigning many officers to serve in neighbourhood policing.

Eddie Hughes, Conservative MP for Walsall North, said: "These figures are deeply concerning. As I have argued again and again since joining Parliament a year ago, people want more police on the streets. The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner received more cash from taxpayers last year, has multi-millions of cash reserves, and should be using these to increase the number of officers we have in Walsall and the Black Country."



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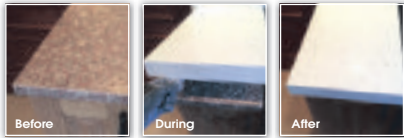


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Police release shocking pictures of M6 collision

POLICE have released shocking images of a horrific motorway crash near Walsall to warn people about driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

The pictures were taken following the smash on the M6 earlier this year and show the devastating carnage that can, and does, materialise when people high on drink and drugs choose to get behind the wheel of a car.

The collision happened on March 4 and was caused by 24-year-old Mohammed Nameer of Dudley Road, Winson Green.

Nameer didn't have a licence and was high on cannabis and alcohol at the time of the accident.

His blue Audi ploughed into the back of the private hire vehicle, flipping it over and trapping the occupants inside.

Injury

The motorway was closed for several hours as a result and cost thousands to repair.

Miraculously no-one lost their life in the incident, but the pictures illustrate just how narrowly all of those involved escaped death and serious injury.

Last week Nameer was sentenced to three months in prison.

He's been banned from driving for two years, ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work and pay fines to his victims and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Pc James Barry who worked on the case said the scene depicted the awful reality of drunk and drug driving and hopes the images will deter others from making the same mistake this



The blue Audi driven by Mohammed Nameer, after the collision



The private hire vehicle which ended up being flipped over

summer. He said: "Choosing to get behind the wheel under the influence can have an effect not only on you, but also on other road users."

"Alcohol affects everyone's driving for the worse - there are no exceptions."

"It creates a feeling of overconfidence, makes judging distance and speed more difficult and slows your reactions so it takes longer to stop."

Drunk and drug driving often leads to serious accidents, injury and death.

"On this occasion the people involved were lucky to escape with their lives."

"The same cannot be said for many, many other innocent people who have died on the region's roads."

The national summer drink-drive campaign starts next week.

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Dismay as rugby club base ransacked in raid

RUGBY club members have been left devastated after their community hub was ransacked.

The attack on Burntwood Rugby Club saw thieves smash their way into the venue, leaving members 'heartbroken'.

Club president Paul Rogers said he was 'worried' repairs could now mount into the tens of thousands of pounds after the raid.

The 52-year-old said: "It's a mindless thing for small monetary gain. Having seen the footage of men walking in and smashing things with crow bars, I feel quite sorry for them."

"I think they are sad. If that's all they have got to do, then they haven't got much going on in their lives."

Police were alerted to the break-in at 3.40am last Tuesday after the club's alarm system was triggered when the thieves broke into the venue.

Two men, who donned hooded jackets, gloves and dark tracksuits, were captured on CCTV approaching the club, based in The Sportsway, around the time of the break-in.

Vandals smashed a window to scramble into the club after failing to get in through the roof.

They propped memorial benches up against walls to help them scale the roof before stealing lead tiles.

Father-of-three Mr Rogers, who has been with the club for the past 35 years, said: "We are a community club. Everybody shares it, there's lots of community groups which come and use it. Everybody is feeling the pain of this break-in."

"I have been overwhelmed by the response from everyone. People offering to help and tidy up, it's humbling."

"You have to be strong and move on



CCTV footage captured the suspects



The club's raided pool table



Lead tiles were stolen from the roof of the community hub building

because you can't let something like this get to you. We are feeling quite low and shocked but we are all rallying together."

A pool table at the club, which is used by about 180 youngsters and various community groups, was also left with a gaping hole.

Cash was taken from the table – as

well as a sweets machine – while a CCTV camera was shattered.

Despite the break-in, members boarded up the damaged window and cleared the mess before opening as usual the same day.

Anyone with any information is asked to call Staffordshire Police on 101.

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Life-saving equipment boost for school

Business in donation of nearly £1,500

A GENEROUS business from the region has donated thousands of pounds to pay for a defibrillator to be installed at a school.

Walsall-based civil engineering and infrastructure firm Barhale raised £1,480 to pay for the life-saving equipment, which will be installed at Old Hall School in the town.

The Bentley Lane school specialises in the education of pupils, aged three to 11, with a wide range of special educational needs including severe, complex and multiple learning difficulties as well as communication, physical, sensory or behavioural difficulties.

Fundraiser Angie Howells, said: "We carry out a lot of fundraising throughout the year and I asked local companies if they would be interested in supporting us in our bid to raise enough money to buy a defibrillator for the school. One of the companies, Barhale, received a letter through their employee, Stuart Smith, whose wife and daughter both work at Old Hall School."

After reading the appeal, staff decided to help. They held an auction of gifts which had been sent to them by their suppliers and managed to raise around £600. The company then pledged a further £900 to take the total raised to just under £1500.

Angie added: "I have been trying to raise enough funds for the school to purchase a defibrillator. When a defibrillator is used within 3-5 minutes of a cardiac arrest, the survival rates jump from six per cent to 74 per cent."

"The benefits of having one on site would be beneficial for our children, visitors and staff, who work tirelessly to care for and educate our pupils on a wide spectrum of levels."



Danny Reilly and Stuart Smith, with the cheque for the school

Busy weekend ahead for Walsall's rambling troupe

RAMBLERS in Walsall will be heading out for two walks this weekend.

Saturday will see members putting their boots on for a short walk, taking in the sights of Wimblebury in Cannock.

The meeting point is the car park at Oak Park C. P. (Lichfield Road) at 9.30am and more information is available from the walk leader on 01922 692929.

For the more adventurous, Helmdon, near Banbury will be the destination when the Walsall Group of the Ramblers take part in a nine-

mile circular walk on Sunday, which is described as a moderate walk on field paths and tracks through quiet countryside between the two villages of Helmdon and Radstone

As always, non-members are always welcome.

More information can be obtained from the walk leader on 01922 614389

Meanwhile, more information about the Walsall Group is available on the group's website www.walsallramblers.org.uk and anyone interested can try searching for the group on Facebook and Twitter.

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Make M6 Toll free, haulage boss says

PLANS to direct motorists to the M6 Toll during busy periods have been criticised by a leading business owner in the Black Country.

Speaking at the launch of Midlands Connect's Motorway Hub Report, haulage firm owner Julian Pottinger said 'most people will sit in congestion rather than pay a fiver to use the toll road'.

Earlier, Midlands Connect had unveiled its 20-year plan to help ease congestion on West Midlands roads, with greater use of the M6 Toll one of its key recommendations.

It would mean better signage to direct people to the toll road during peak times.

Mr Pottinger said that while he understood the thinking behind the strategy, he believed far more people would use the road if it was made free to the public.

"I am very much against the toll road," he said. "I think it's underused massively and the best way to solve that is to make it free for cars."

"That might seem like a bit of a retro strategy, but it goes against our constitu-

By Richard Guttridge

tion to pay £1,200 a year in road tax, only to have to pay extra to go on the toll road on a daily basis. We've got a road there that's barely used with no cars per day on it. And why not? That's just sitting there, it's built, it's done."

Mr Pottinger was speaking from his haulage yard in Oldbury, which played host to the launch of the Midlands Connect motorway hub report. It made 10 main recommendations for where improvements could be made across the West Midlands road network.

Better signage to help direct people to the M6 Toll during peak times was one of its most immediate pledges.

Optician's Jenny sees in retirement



Janny Morley celebrates with founder Martin Wheeler

STAFF and patients at a Black Country business said a fond farewell to one its longest-serving members of staff.

Jenny Morley, who lives in Pelsall, has retired from Martin Wheeler Opticians in the village after 23 years of service. Jenny, aged 68, who worked as a senior receptionist, was one of the longest-serving and most-loved members of staff at the opticians.

She began working for the company in 1995. Nigel Terry, managing director at the business, said: "It's been an absolute pleasure working with Jenny over the years. She has always been a much-loved personality in our practice."

"On behalf of all the team at Martin Wheeler, I'd like to thank Jenny for her decades of hard work and wish her a very happy retirement." Jenny was treated to a three-course meal by staff to thank her for her service.

Her colleagues also clubbed together to buy her hundreds of pounds worth of shopping vouchers, a voucher for a special afternoon tea at Weston Park and a bouquet of flowers. Jenny said: "I'm sad to say goodbye to my friends and patients at Martin Wheeler Optometrists but I'm excited to be able to enjoy a lot more free time."

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WOYZECK: GIVE ME A BREAK!

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Woyzeck's whole lot of heart – no drama

Community is at the heart of Birmingham's cultural scene. And so Birmingham REP director Roxana Silbert is particularly pleased to give 100 locals the chance to perform.

They feature in a stunning new production called *Woyzeck*, by Georg Buchner, which is being presented by Birmingham Repertory Theatre in association with Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018 from tomorrow until June 23.

It stars a central character, *Woyzeck*, who just can't get a break. He's stuck living in military barracks and is forced to shave his condescending commanding officer every day. His wages are pitiful. His girlfriend might be having an affair. And now he is hearing voices. Maybe he's starting to crack? Or maybe it's just because his doctor is trialling a pea-only diet on him? It's far from ideal but his doctor's poking and prodding comes with the reward of some extra money. It's the chance for a better life if *Woyzeck* can just hold on that little bit longer.

Roxana says: "*Woyzeck* was written in the 1830s and we now have a new adaptation of it by Leo Butler. It has two professional actors, *Woyzeck* and Marie, his girlfriend, but the remaining 100 are community participants."

Theatre and dance will combine in the exhilarating story about fighting for a better life when everything else seems to be fighting against you. And as well as celebrating the human spirit, *Woyzeck* also celebrates the West Midlands spirit as a community with its chorus of 100 performers and dancers.

Roxana adds: "The play is the story of *Woyzeck* as a young man. They have a baby. It's the end of a War and it's set in the here and now in an unspecific Middle Eastern town, when they've won the war against insurgents. It's a heady period when the war is over but normality has not yet been established. In essence, it's about how they are trying to survive. He is a soldier with PTSD and no money. There's nothing in that town. It's about his mental health and how he's crushed. But also it's about how spirited they are."

The reason Roxana wanted to stage the play with a community cast is that the key themes of the work focus on the relationship between community and *Woyzeck*. "There are parades, drunken parties and towns."

And so as well as bringing the West Midlands community into the REP, the theatre has also been able to provide invaluable experience to theatrical assistants, assistant directors and tech-staff looking to improve in their chosen careers of sound and stage management.

The participation of amateurs has been revealing. It has not only given them hard-to-come-by experience of being in a professional theatre, but also re-energised the REP itself.

Roxana adds: "The people are from Birmingham and the surrounding area and there are all sorts of individuals here. For three years, we've been looking at this type of initiative where we get more members of the community involved and it's been tremendously important for both the theatre and those taking part."

"What we are hoping to do is create a sustained all-year round drama workshop for the theatre."

In addition to providing entertainment for regular theatre goers, *Woyzeck* is also an exercise in outreach work. It is demonstrating the creative talents of people from Birmingham, the Black Country and beyond. And the talents of West Midlandsers is a theme that Roxana warms to. "This is an amazingly talented city. It has

Community culture – the show is giving locals the chance to perform



an amazing range of young artists but also it's an extraordinary city because it's so diverse and the sense of community is so strong. The best part of this is how lovely people are to each other. The participants are aged 16 to 80 and they come from all backgrounds and all areas. They all make a great effort to get along."

Roxana's background was in community theatre and she has brought that ethos to the REP.

"It's energising and inspiring to give people these opportunities. You know, the creativity in this city is second to none. You don't see the diversity of talent that you see in London or Manchester. We don't know why people come to these things when they arrive on the first day, but over time we get to know them and their stories are tremendous."

"We have a girl who has been in hospital for three years and this the

This is an amazingly talented city. The sense of community is strong

first time she's danced since she's got out. We've seen people with no confidence stand on the largest stage in the country and speak out with huge confidence. A lot of people who come do so for personal reasons, frequently because things have gone wrong. Part of their rehabilitation is being creative. And from my perspective, that's much more moving than seeing people who are paid professionals."

"I think a regional theatre is about community. To put that community at the heart of what we do is the most important thing of all."

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In the Upper Room Pic: Roy Smiljanic



Curtain up on classic and contemporary ballets

FOLLOWING a successful tour of Japan, Birmingham Royal Ballet return home this month with striking modern works and the most famous love story ever told.

Kenneth MacMillan's Romeo and Juliet will be staged at the company's home theatre, Birmingham Hippodrome, from June 26 to 30.

Before that BRB present two modern classics and a must-see premiere in an adventurous programme entitled Polarity and Proximity.

Created in 2014 by former BRB dancer Alexander Whitley for the Birmingham International Dance Festival, Kin, is an athletic, abstract piece danced to pulsing, hypnotic score by Phil Kline.

Embrace, choreographed by Worcestershire-born

George Williamson to a specially commissioned score from Sarah Kirkland Snider with new designs from Madeleine Girling, premieres as part of the Ballet Now talent development programme.

The triple bill concludes with American choreographer Twyla Tharp's In the Upper Room. Quick footed, dancers in sneakers and striking red pointe shoes dominate the stage with energy, flair and finesse, dancing to the hypnotic music of Philip Glass.

The Polarity and Proximity programme is at the Hippodrome, as part of the Birmingham International Dance Festival, from June 20 to 23.

A cast of more than 50 feature in Romeo and Juliet, and the spectacle is accompanied by Prokofiev's score played live by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

Be Witness as Katy Roars into Brum



She stormed to the top of the charts with debut single I Kissed A Girl 10 years ago – and has shown no signs of letting up since.

A string of hits have followed for Katy Perry – or Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson to give her her real name – including further number ones California Gurls, Part of Me and Roar.

After album successes with One of the Boys, Teenage Dream and Prism, the 35-year-old singer/songwriter, pictured, has embarked on her Witness tour and plays at Arena Birmingham next Monday,

June 18. Popular 21-year-old Hailee Steinfeld, best know for her hits Starvin', a collaboration with Zedd, and Capital Letters, with BloodPop, provides support.

Ticket prices start from £57.40, including an admin fee. Visit www.theticketfactory.com or call the ticket hotline on 0844 33 88 222.

HIGHLIGHTS

Award-winning US jazz and soul guitarist and singer George Benson has a date in the Second City on the same night.

Since the early 1960s, Benson's recorded highlights have

included Give Me The Night and In Your Eyes. He performs at the Symphony Hall.

"This ain't no disco. It ain't no country club either." It's the same Broad Street venue where Sheryl Crow, well-known for hits such as All I Wanna Do, performs on Tuesday, June 19. It Ain't Over Til It's Over as Grammy-award winning Lenny Kravitz takes the stage at Arena Birmingham on Wednesday.

Next Thursday, meanwhile, is a nice day for a White Wedding, as Billy Idol completes a busy week of gigs in Birmingham. The rocker plays at the O2 Academy.

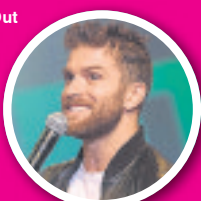
Joel tops the bill at Brierley Hill

I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! 2016 runner-up Joel Dommett, pictured, tops the four comic bill when the Live At The Civic comedy night returns to Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Saturday.

Also bringing the laughs will be debonair 1930s throwback Troy Hawke, musical Rob Deering and Dudley's own Wayne Beese.

Tickets cost £18.50 and the show starts at 8pm. It is for over 18s only.

See www.bhillcivic.co.uk for further details.



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A FANTASTIC tribute to Jeff Lynne's ELO aims to prove Rock and Roll is King this weekend – in the band's home city.

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The Blue Sky Tour hits the Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, on Saturday, from 7.30pm.

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Russia 2018: FIFA World Cup JUNE 14 - JULY 15

Russia hosts the FIFA World Cup for the first time, but the lowest ranked team in the tournament faces a huge challenge to compete with the world's top footballing powers

RED AMBITION: Russia finished fourth in 1966, as Soviet Union, but Russian Federation team has yet to qualify from group stage

Performance by host

Group stage	2nd round	Quarter-final	Semi-final	Final	Winner
1	1982, 94, 2002	1934, 54, 70, 86	1962, 90, 2002, 06, 14	1950, 58, 74, 78, 98	1930, 34, 66, 74, 78, 98

Winning Feeling: Victory for Germany would equal Brazil's five World Cup crowns and be first successive title win since 1962

Germany Win ratio: 67.3% **Tournament wins:** 70

Italy 64.3% 45 **Germany qualified with superior 10-game winning streak - scoring 43 goals**

Argentina 54.5% 42 **Germany qualified with superior 10-game winning streak - scoring 43 goals**

Spain 49.2% 29 **Germany qualified with superior 10-game winning streak - scoring 43 goals**

France 47.5% 28 **Germany qualified with superior 10-game winning streak - scoring 43 goals**

Netherlands 54.1% 27 **Germany qualified with superior 10-game winning streak - scoring 43 goals**

England 41.3% 26 **Germany qualified with superior 10-game winning streak - scoring 43 goals**

Top goalscorers: Poland's Robert Lewandowski (right) and Mohamed Al-Shehri of Saudi Arabia both scored 16 goals in qualifying matches

Competition schedule

32 teams contest total of 64 matches, played at 12 venues, over four weeks

12 venues

St. Petersburg Stadium, 67,000
Luzhniki Stadium, 80,000
Spartak Stadium, 45,000
Yekaterinburg Arena, 25,000
Kazan Arena, 45,000
Samara Arena, 45,000
Volgograd Arena, 45,000
Sochi Fisht Olympic Stadium, 48,000
Mordovia Arena, 44,000
Nizhny Novgorod Stadium, 45,000
Kaliningrad Stadium, 35,000

June A

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Russia	Egypt	Uruguay	Saudi Arabia	Morocco	France	Peru	Denmark	France	Denmark	Australia	Peru

June C

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Russia	Egypt	Uruguay	Saudi Arabia	Morocco	France	Peru	Denmark	France	Denmark	Australia	Peru

June E

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Russia	Egypt	Uruguay	Saudi Arabia	Morocco	France	Peru	Denmark	France	Denmark	Australia	Peru

June G

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Russia	Egypt	Uruguay	Saudi Arabia	Morocco	France	Peru	Denmark	France	Denmark	Australia	Peru

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CUP 2018

Second stage		Quarter-finals		Third-place play-off		Quarter-finals		Second stage	
June 30 A1 B2	Sofia	July 6	Nizhny	July 14	St Petersburg	July 7	Sofia	July 1	Moscow
30 C1 D2	Krasnodar							1 B1 A2	Nizhny
July 2 B1 F2	Spartak	July 6	Kazan	July 15	Moscow	July 7	Spartak	3 P1 G2	St Petersburg
2 G1 H2	Akhtyr							3 H1 I2	Moscow
ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS		Host nation		FINAL		Semi-final		Semi-final	
1950 Uruguay 4-2	Argentina Uruguay	July 10	St Petersburg	July 15	Moscow	July 11	Moscow	July 11	Moscow
1954 Italy 2-1	Czechoslovakia Italy	<p>Opened in 1956 as Central Lenin Stadium, Olympic stadium of Communist Russia - hosted 1980 Summer Olympics and Champions League final in 2008</p> <p>Luzhniki Stadium Capacity: 80,000</p> <p>Reopened in Nov 2017 after four-year, €3.5bn renovation to expand roof structure, increase capacity and preserve iconic Soviet facade</p>		<p>Reopened in Nov 2017 after four-year, €3.5bn renovation to expand roof structure, increase capacity and preserve iconic Soviet facade</p>		<p>Reopened in Nov 2017 after four-year, €3.5bn renovation to expand roof structure, increase capacity and preserve iconic Soviet facade</p>		<p>Reopened in Nov 2017 after four-year, €3.5bn renovation to expand roof structure, increase capacity and preserve iconic Soviet facade</p>	
1958 Italy 4-2	Hungary France								
1962 Uruguay 3-1	Brazil Brazil								
1964 West Germany 3-2	Hungary Switzerland								
1966 Brazil 5-2	Sweden Sweden								
1968 Brazil 3-1	Czechoslovakia Chile								
1970 England 4-2	West Germany England								
1974 Brazil 4-1	Italy Mexico								
1978 West Germany 3-1	Netherlands West Germany								

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Top two from each group progress to knockout stage		If scores level after 90 minutes, knockout stage matches go into extra time. Matches remaining level decided on penalties	
June 15	Merseys	June 16	Argentina
Portugal	Spain	Croatia	Algeria
20 Portugal	Morocco	21 Argentina	Croatia
Iran	Spain	22 Nigeria	Iceland
25 Iran	Portugal	20 Nigeria	Iceland
Spain	Morocco		

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CHOICE



Kirsty Wark

Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2018 (BBC2, 9pm)
The Royal Academy of Arts' Summer Exhibition is the world's oldest open submission show, allowing anyone to submit their work for consideration. As it reaches its 250th year, Kirsty Wark and Jayson Mansaray follow the preparations for the annual art extravaganza. They meet this year's curator, the artist Grayson Perry, and follow a handful of aspiring artists, including celebrities Harry Hill, Joe Lycett and Una Stubbs, who submitted their work in the hope of being selected for a place in this hallowed institution.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. **1.15** BBC News: Weather. **1.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.30** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.30** Britain's Best Home Cook. (R) **4.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Peru v Denmark (Kick-off 5.00pm).
7.10 BBC News.
7.20 Regional Programme.
7.30 **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present another star-studded edition of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz, this time inviting a selection of popular impressionists to compete. Seeking to emerge with the least points are The Big Impression double-act Alistair McGowan and Ronni Ancona, Dead Ringers co-stars Jon Culshaw and Jan Ravens, Rory Bremner and his Coalition Report collaborator Matt Forde, and Britain's Got Talent comedy stars Francine Lewis and Danny Posthill. (R)
8.20 **Casualty.** With Dylan nowhere to be found, Connie and Elle are forced to work together to pitch for funding for a new trauma centre. With both women struggling to hide their resentment of each other, their relationship hits rock bottom. Elsewhere, Bea grows concerned for Alicia, while Gem and Rash are tasked with looking after Connie's goldfish.
9.10 **All Round to Mrs Brown's.** Brendan O'Carroll's alter ego and her family welcome more celebrity guests into the family home, including Alan Davies, Marvin and Rochelle Humes and Wayne Bridge, who is called on to give Dermot and Buster a football masterclass.
10.10 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. Dan Walker introduces action from four group matches – France v Australia, Peru v Denmark, Argentina v Iceland and Croatia v Nigeria.
11.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay. Argentina v Iceland. A full re-run of the opening match in Group D, as the teams faced each other at Spartak Stadium in Moscow.
1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengies. **8.00** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **8.30** Natural Born Winners. (R) **9.30** Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? (R) **10.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **11.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **11.45** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.45** Wanted Down Under. (R) **1.30** The World According to Kids. (R) **2.30** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **3.30** Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. (R) **4.30** Choose the Right Puppy for You. (R) **5.30** The River Wye with Will Millard.
6.00 **Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In?** Students face their mock GCSEs, while the head teachers of Erith and Townley announce a plan to bring both schools into the same trust. Last in the series. (R)
7.00 **Dad's Army.** Private Pike receives his call-up papers and unexpectedly passes his medical, much to the horror of his mollycoddling mother. (R)
7.30 **Film: Earth: One Amazing Day.** (2017) Premiere. Feature-length wildlife documentary from the same team the made David Attenborough's award-winning Planet Earth and Blue Planet documentaries, charting the story of life on Earth over the course of a single day. The film introduces viewers to a cast of characters including a baby zebra desperate to cross a swollen river, a penguin heroically undertaking a death-defying daily commute to feed its family, a family of sperm whales that like to snooze vertically and a sloth on the lookout for love. Narrated by Robert Redford.
9.00 **Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2018.** Kirsty Wark and Jayson Mansaray follow preparations for the annual art exhibition, meeting this year's curator Grayson Perry and some of the celebrities who have submitted work.
10.00 **All Girls Live at the Apollo.** Leading performers on the stand-up circuit share their light-hearted views on modern life in this show recorded before a packed house at London's Hammersmith Apollo.
10.45 **Later Weekend with Jools Holland.**
11.45 **Film: The Help.** (2011)
2.05 Civilisations on Your Doorstep. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Playable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjabo: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** Midsomer Murders. (R) **11.20** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **1.30** FIFA World Cup 2018. Argentina v Iceland (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.15** Catchphrase. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** ITV News: Weather.
6.15 **Regional Programme:** Weather.
6.25 **Take Me Out.** Men try to impress 30 single women and win a date – but must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Paddy McGuinness presents. (R)
7.30 **FIFA World Cup 2018.** Croatia v Nigeria (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the match at the Kaliningrad Stadium in Russia, where the teams play their opening Group D contest. This will be the fifth World Cup the Croats have participated in, and they will hope to improve on their three most recent tournaments, all of which saw them lose their opening contest, before crashing out at the group stage. The one time they did win their first fixture was during their debut at France 98, when they registered a 3-1 win over Jamaica and qualified second in their group, and eventually finished third after beating the Netherlands in the third-place play-off. The Super Eagles have also got off to a slow start at their three most recent World Cup appearances, losing to Argentina in 2002 and 2010, while drawing 0-0 with Iran four years ago in Brazil, and a fast start could be imperative to their prospects of reaching the knockout stage given they will next face an unknown quantity in Iceland, before reacquainting themselves with old foes Argentina.
10.15 ITV News: Weather.
10.35 **Film: Rocky II.** (1979) Drama sequel, with Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire and Carl Weathers.
12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.35** Triathlon: Blenheim Palace. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.20** Frasier. (R) **8.45** Frasier. (R) **9.15** Frasier. (R) **9.45** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.10** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.40** The Simpsons. (R) **11.10** The Simpsons. (R) **11.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.40** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.15** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.45** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.20** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.25** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **5.30** Channel 4 News.
6.00 **Film: Snow White & the Huntsman.** (2012) An evil queen learns that her reign will last for ever if she kills a princess, so sends a renowned warrior to find and murder her. However, he comes to realise his mistress's evil ways, and instead trains his intended victim to fight so they can bring the tyrant's rule to an end. Fantasy adventure, with Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth and Charlize Theron.
8.20 **Live International Rugby Union.** Argentina v Wales (Kick-off 8.40pm). Lee McKenzie presents coverage of the international fixture, staged at the Estadio Brigadier Lopez in Santa Fe. Warren Gatland and his squad will want to finish the international season on a high by clinching a morale-boosting win against the Pumas, 15 months out from the next World Cup. With analysis from Shane Williams, Ugo Monye and Ryan Jones, and commentary by Eddie Butler and Martyn Williams.
10.55 **Film: A Million Ways to Die in the West.** (2014) A timid farmer tries to become a gunslinging Wild West hero to impress a mysterious woman. Western spoof, directed by and starring Seth MacFarlane, with Charlize Theron.
1.05 Ramsay's Hotel Hell. Part two of two. Gordon Ramsay uncovers more problems at the Juniper Hill Inn. (R) **1.55** Hollyoaks: Omnibus. James wants to make sure Harry is back on the straight and narrow, and Sami gives Kyle the wrong idea, while Cindy employs her experiences to help Alfie. (R) **4.05** My Kitchen Rules. A group have to make canapes for 40 guests. (R) **5.00** Jamie's Comfort Food. Jamie Oliver prepares ossoobuco with a twist. (R) **6.10** Cheap Cheap Cheap. Kelly shows off her gymnastic skills. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.40** Funniest Dogs Behaving Badly. (R) **12.25** Nightmare Toddler. Iantrums. (R) **1.25** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **2.20** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **3.15** Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. (R) **4.15** Can't Pay Special: Secrets and Lies. (R) **5.15** 5 News Weekend. **5.20** Chuckle Time.
6.10 **The Wonderful World of Puppies.** New series. The first few months of a dog's life, following different breeds as they take the first steps on their own unique developmental journey.
7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Highlights of the second one-day international in the five-match series, which took place at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff.
7.40 **Before They Were Stars.** New series. A trek back through the TV archive to uncover embarrassing early brushes with fame endured by some of today's biggest stars. Among those skewered are pop stars, rock legends, silver-screen icons, celebrated comedians and sporting heroes.
8.40 **Blind Date.** New series. Paul O'Grady hosts a revival of the dating show in which contestants must choose between three unseen suitors.
9.35 **20 Moments That Rocked Talent Shows.** A journey through the instances that rocked the genre and the fall-out that followed. Included is the occasion Will Young triumphed over Simon Cowell's favourite Gareth Gates on Pop Idol and the discovery of Cheryl Fernandez-Versini via Pop Stars: The Rivals. Plus, the memorable time Susan Boyle stepped out to sing I Dreamed a Dream on Britain's Got Talent and the tragic tale of Lena Zavaroni, the former child star winner of Opportunity Knocks. Contributors include Louis Walsh, Pete Waterman and Nina Myskow. (R)
11.05 **Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups.** Joe Pasquale revisits hilarious celebrity pranks, with first-hand accounts from the people responsible for staging the tricks, and the unfortunate stars on the receiving end. (R)
12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** **Film:** The Green Hornet. (2011) **5.00** Access. **5.10** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Burrowers: Animals Underground **8.00** Darcy Bussell's Looking for Audrey **9.00** Hidden **10.00** The League of Gentlemen **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1995 **11.30** Killing Me Softly: The Roberta Flack Story **12.30** Natural World: The Woman Who Swims with Killer Whales **1.30** Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise **2.30** Darcy Bussell's Looking for Audrey **3.30** Close
ITV2
12.25 Ninja Warrior UK **1.30** **Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40** **Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.15** **Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20** **Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **5.20** **Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30** **Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **7.05** **Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** **Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.55** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** Through the Keyhole **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
7.00 Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.05** Murder, She Wrote **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.30 British Touring Car Championship Highlights **1.00** Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from York. Coverage of today's races. **4.00** **Film:** Kharatoum (1966) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** **Film:** Kharatoum (1966) **6.40** World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **8.00** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **9.00** **Film:** Lethal Weapon (1987) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** **Film:** Lethal Weapon (1987) **11.15** **Film:** Memphis Belle (1990) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** **Film:** Memphis Belle (1990) **1.25** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **2.30** The Protectors **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.50 Young Sheldon **12.20** The Big Bang Theory **6.20** **Film:** Hulk (2003) **9.00** **Film:** Bad Teacher (2011) **10.50** Gogglebox **1.00** Tattoo Fixers **2.05** Rude Tube **3.05** Gogglebox **4.00** Rude Tube **4.25** Rude(ish) Tube
Film4
11.00 Rugrats Go Wild (2003) **1.00** Hotel for Dogs (2009) **3.00** Carry On Teacher (1956) **4.40** Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **6.50** Romancing the Stone (1984) **8.00** A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) **10.55** Predator 2 (1990) **1.05** Sorcerer (1977) **3.35** Close

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From Walsall & Wolverhampton

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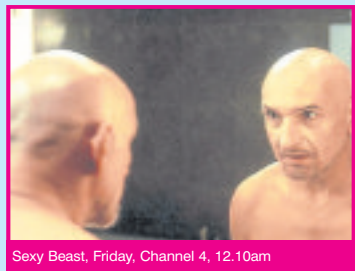


FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Deadline for Death: Your Parents Will Die, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A newlywed couple of private detectives are forced to prove their crimebusting prowess when their parents are taken hostage by a vengeful kidnapper who claims his brother was wrongly convicted of murder. Mystery drama, starring Rachel Blanchard and Cameron Mathison. (2014)

TUESDAY
Unwanted Guest, Channel 5, 3.20pm
With nowhere to go for winter break, Amy is invited to spend time with her friend Christine's family. What begins as a nice bonding experience soon turns into a nightmare as Amy begins to lash out at her welcoming hosts. Thriller, starring Kate Mansi and Valentina Novakovic. (2016)

WEDNESDAY
Her Son's Deadly Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Thirteen years after disappearing, presumed drowned, a man returns home to his mother, but questions remain about his intentions. Thriller, starring Olivia d'Abo and Tammy Blanchard. (2018)



Sexy Beast, Friday, Channel 4, 12.10am

THURSDAY
Deadly Vows, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman becomes suspicious of her brother's fiancée, a pastry chef who poisons men who do not meet her high standards. Crime drama, starring Brittany Underwood and Cameron Jebo. (1900)

FRIDAY
Mad Max, ITV, 11.45pm
A cop in the near future sets out to avenge his family's murder at the hands of a biker gang. Action thriller, starring Mel Gibson and Joanne Samuel. (1979)

Sexy Beast, Channel 4, 12.10am
A retired safe-breaker enjoying the high life in Spain becomes the target of unwanted attention when his psychotic former gangland boss comes looking to enlist his help and expertise for a major bank robbery in London. Crime thriller, starring Ray Winstone, Ben Kingsley, Ian McShane and Amanda Redman. (2000)

Will the Three Lions be ready to roar in Russia?

A few England supports will have fond memories of Alf Ramsey's side's famous triumph in 1966, but most others will only remember the agonising losses to Germany, Argentina, Portugal and Brazil.

Indeed, disappointments on the biggest stage have haunted the English national team for years – even more so recently.

At the 2014 World Cup, the Three Lions didn't even escape the group stage and at Euro 2016 they were eliminated in the last 16 by Iceland in an enormous upset.

But whether they like to admit it or not, most England fans are filled with at least a tiny bit of optimism believing that they can win the World Cup again.

Gary Cahill, Ashley Young and Jamie Vardy are the only players in the squad over 30 years old, and England have a fresher, younger look with a new manager.

Okay, at the back, there is inexperience that could be costly at this level, so a lot could hinge of the

relatively old heads of Cahill, Kyle Walker, Ashley Young and Phil Jones.

However, boss Gareth Southgate is blessed with youthful talent up front, and Harry Kane, Raheem Sterling and Marcus Rashford are all capable of leading the line, while midfielders Dele Alli, Jesse Lingard, Jordan Henderson and Eric Dier are adept at providing the ammunition.

The first side in captain Kane and co's sights at the Volgograd Arena today are Group G rivals Tunisia.

The Eagles of Carthage are Africa's highest-ranked team, but come into the World Cup as a bit of a wildcard after qualifying for the first time in 12 years.

Nabil Maâloul's men's won their qualifying group without losing a match and only conceded four goals in six matches.

In this, their fifth World Cup, they are attempting to finally get out of the group stage, but they have to do it without their best player, Youssef Msakni, who has a knee injury.

Instead, Tunisia will rely heavily on striker Saber Khalifa and attacking midfielder Wahbi Khazri, who has had an outstanding club season after being loaned from Sunderland to French side Rennes.

Coming up against England and Belgium in their first two matches could be brutal for the Tunisians, but if they can salvage a point in one of those contests, a spot in the Round of 16 could be within reach by the time they face Panama.

You may recall England and Tunisia met at the same stage in 1996, with England running out comfortable 2-0 winners in Marseille thanks to goals from Alan Shearer and Paul Scholes.

They will also begin as favourites this evening, although their opponents will be no pushovers, and as with every campaign, one thing is almost guaranteed – there'll be drama aplenty.

So if you're an England fan, prepare to have your nerves shattered and nails bitten down to the wick.



MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018, Monday, BBC1, 6.15pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Family Farm BBC2, 8pm
The first of a new four-part series is right up Kate Humble's street. The veteran of many impressive series, including Wild Shepherdess, and Back to the Land, presents the show in which three families agree to work on a North Wales hill farm, living in a purpose-built yurt village in the shadow of Snowdonia. And if that sounds like a lot of hard work, then you'd be right. Hill farming is exhausting enough on the best of days, but when the weather is not so kind, it will push the brave participants to their limits. Episode one focuses on working with sheep, which must be gathered, sheared and sold at market. If nothing else the series will ensure viewers spare a thought for those who have to do this every day without cameras rolling.

TUESDAY
Trevor McDonald: Return to South Africa ITV, 9pm
It's more than three decades since the host first witnessed the horrors of apartheid in South Africa. Now, to mark what would have been Nelson Mandela's 100th birthday, Trevor McDonald has returned to visit places where he saw moments that would change the history of a country. The veteran

presenter was the first journalist to interview Mandela after his release from prison. He visits Vilekazi Street, the site of the African National Congress veteran's family home, and the place where he conducted the first interview with the political leader following his release from prison after 27 years incarceration. There's perhaps little wonder Trevor considers this the pinnacle of his journalistic career.

WEDNESDAY
Mad About Elvis BBC1, 7.30pm
It's more than four decades since he died, but the spirit of Elvis Presley is alive, well and partying hard in Porthcawl, South Wales. This film examines the region's annual Elvis Festival, when thousands of fans descend on the Welsh seaside town for a celebration of The King. Among the devotees that pack the promenade, pubs and seafront Pavilion, are Festival Opener Darren Graceland Jones, a full-time Elvis tribute artist, whose bread and butter is performing as Elvis to dementia sufferers in care homes.



Trevor McDonald: Return to South Africa, Tuesday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
The Murder of Rhys Jones: Police Tapes ITV, 9pm
It should have been just another Wednesday night in 2007 as Liverpool mum Melanie Jones carried out a spot of wallpapering. Then she discovered her 11-year-old son Rhys had been shot while on the way home from football practice, and nothing was ever the same again. The story was dramatised as acclaimed TV drama Little Boy Blue, and now there's a chance to see what really happened. Police were left with a seemingly impenetrable case. However, during investigations, certain names repeatedly cropped up, so the authorities planted secret bugs in the homes of these gang members. Susanna Reid gains access to the subsequent recordings, where those responsible

admit their part and the lengths they would go to cover up the crime. Rhys's parents, Mel and Steve, also discuss the impact of this shocking crime.

FRIDAY
Cruising with Jane McDonald Channel 5, 9pm
It's not a bad life being the star of this show. After all, not only does she get paid to travel the world, but with a Bafta under her belt, there's little chance of producers pulling the plug for a good year or more. In the first of a two-parter, she's exploring South America aboard a luxury ship. Beginning in Valparaiso, Jane enjoys a street art tour, before travelling south along the Chilean coast. A few days later she oohs and aahs over a glacier on Laguna San Rafael, and partakes in the traditional drinking of whisky on ice directly from the glacier. In deepest Patagonia, she stops off in Punta Arenas, and then once back on board the ship, Jane enjoys a tour of the bridge with the captain as they head for the Falklands.

The Bridge BBC2, 9pm
Pressure mounts to release Tommy's uncooperative mother. A private detective hired by Niels Thormod goes missing. In Danish and Swedish.

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Camp Hill School for Boys Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, B14 7QJ Fri 21st Sept 2018, 6.00pm - 8.00pm Sat 22nd Sept 2018, 10.00am - 12.30pm	Handsworth Grammar School for Boys Grove Lane, Handsworth, B21 9ET Thur 21st June 2018, 5.00pm - 8.00pm Thur 20th Sept 2018, 5.00pm - 8.00pm Thur 18th Oct 2018, 9.30am - 10.30am (appointment only) Tues 23rd Oct 2018, 9.30am - 10.30am (appointment only)
Camp Hill School for Girls Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, B14 7QJ Thur 5th July 2018, 4.00pm - 6.45pm Mon 22nd Oct 2018, 10.45am (appointment only) Tues 23rd Oct 2018, 10.45am (appointment only) Wed 24th Oct 2018, 5.30pm - 8.30pm	Handsworth School for Girls Rose Hill Rd, Handsworth, B21 9AR Tues 26th June 2018, 9.30pm - 11.00am Tues 18th Sept 2018, 5.00pm - 8.00pm Wed 19th Sept 2018, 9.00am - 12.00pm (appointment only)

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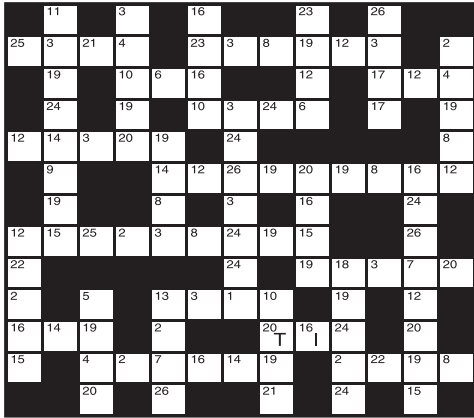
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BRAIN GYM

No.484

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	Y	O	P	D	I	R	H	Z	F	G	L	T	M	C	U	E	A	X	K	J	S	N	V	W	Q

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

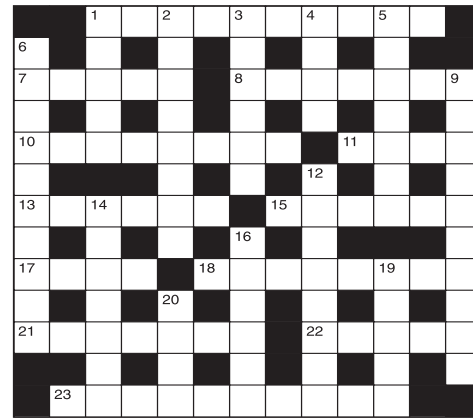
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Escort me to new set-up to settle (4,2,4)
- Correctly adjust a rank, we hear (5)
- Change of raiment for part of the mosque (7)
- 10 & 3Dn. Become incensed and fail to process the steel properly? (4,4,6)
- 22 Across is backing the favourites (4)
- Mother to make inquiries for fine material (6)
- Irritates one with chest disorder (6)
- Few disturbed about one mate (4)
- Tutor can become a renegade (8)
- A blazer put on at Christmas time (4-3)
- A certain speed without delay (5)
- Friday dragging on infinitely without company! (10)

Down

- Money required for company in the south (5)
- My French bird is a snake destroyer (8)
- See 10 Across.
- It comes from a caller in Germany (4)
- Extend a sentence (7)
- Telephoned on holiday - received message to depart (6,4)
- He should put the right letters in his case (4-6)
- One's gate could date back a long way (5,3)
- Neckwear that will deaden the sound (7)
- Softly encouraged to be refined (6)
- Jewels appeal to friends (5)
- Most of the Navy escape (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Amazing (10)
- Map (5)
- Touch (7)
- Eternally (8)
- Couple (4)
- Threefold (6)
- Picture-house (6)
- Absent (4)
- Answer (8)
- Investigate (7)
- Debate (5)
- Tenacious (10)

Down

- Musty (5)
- Inopportune (8)
- Accompany (6)
- Completed (4)
- Ignorant (7)
- Emphasise (10)
- Menaced (10)
- Supplant (8)
- Pattern (7)
- Alcove (6)
- Darkness (5)
- Fling (4)

Sudoku

6	5			9				8
4		7	8			2		
		1	7				5	
7	2	8						
			9	4			8	
	6				4	9		
				8	2	3		5
		4	1				2	6

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	6	7	9	5	4	1	3	8
4	3	5	6	8	1	9	2	7
8	1	9	3	7	2	6	5	4
5	2	8	7	3	6	4	9	1
9	7	3	1	4	5	8	6	2
6	4	1	2	9	8	5	7	3
1	5	6	4	2	3	7	8	9
3	9	4	8	6	7	2	1	5
7	8	2	5	1	9	3	4	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Starter; 7 Every; 9 End; 10 Appearing; 12 Sports model; 15 Star studded; 17 Vacillate; 19 Lie; 21 Began; 22 Binding. Down: 1 Stand; 2 Urn; 3 Keep; 4 Overpower; 5 Drinker; 8 Leased; 11 Appraisal; 13 Rattle; 14 Steamer; 16 Lions; 18 Trip; 20 Odd. QUICK - Across: 6 Legally; 7 Civil; 9 Wry; 10 Resultant; 12 Possibility; 15 Downhearted; 17 Stolidity; 19 Vow; 21 Boasted; 22 Leading. Down: 1 Learn; 2 Way; 3 Glee; 4 Distiller; 5 Dignity; 8 Number; 11 Countless; 13 Speedy; 14 Control; 16 Mount; 18 Teem; 20 Add.

Quiz

- Which two of Wagner's opera titles are father and son?
- At what Beaufort number does smoke rise vertically?
- Of which element is charcoal a form?
- What was 12-year-old Vicki van Meter the youngest female pilot to cross?
- Who painted The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Tulp?
- What was the British equivalent of

- America's Bureau of Consumer Protection?
- Who was the second man on the moon?
- With which medical disorder may one have Jacksonian seizures?
- Which controversial TV playwright died in June 1994?
- Of which country was Rafael Callejas elected president in 1989?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Orwell; 2 Dance; 3 Nicosia; 4 A zygote; 5 M/V Derbyshire; 6 Henry VIII; 7 Hastings; 8 Pierce Brosnan; 9 Mushroom; 10 Ionian.

Niner: LUBRICATE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6311787
96759
95612478

gives an Italian composer,
gives a Norwegian composer,
gives an American composer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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IN2U Man
• EDT

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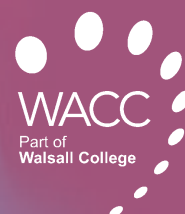


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TUESDAY 19th JUNE

Intro to Business Enterprise
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Introduction to Health & Safety for the Caring Industry
Introduction to Paediatric First Aid
Introduction to Baby Massage
Crafts for Children
'Mock the Court' - Citizens' Rights

WEDNESDAY 20th JUNE

Art
Jewellery
Computing
Gardening

THURSDAY 21st JUNE

Changing Our Lives
Diabetes Awareness
Keeping Children Safe
Preservation of Our Natural World - Bees
Creative Crafts
Punjabi Folk Dance - Gidda

FRIDAY 22nd JUNE

Using a Raspberry Pi (I.T. Device)
How Fast Can You Type?
Optical Experiments
Words - Origins of Words

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HAWBUSH CAMPUS



WHITEHALL CAMPUS

Four-bed bungalow set in a superb cul-de-sac position

In a superb cul-de-sac position, 12 Sanstone Close in Bloxwich, Walsall, is an immaculately refurbished and extended four-bedroomed detached bungalow for sale through Goodchilds Estate Agents at £325,000.

In the desirable area of Bloxwich, the property has undergone a full refurbishment programme and has been extended to include an impressive kitchen/family room, front sitting room, four bedrooms and a luxuriously fitted bathroom and a WC.

Set in a quiet cul-de-sac just off the Stafford Road, the bungalow has a spacious and versatile layout with a contemporary style finish.

To the outside is a private rear garden with a patio area and lawned area. In more detail this property is very smartly presented, both inside and out.

To the front it has more than ample off road parking space, and the bungalow has an attractive cream painted finish.

The kitchen has modern white high gloss units, complemented by contemporary chrome handles and black working surfaces, floor tiling and attractive white splash-back tiling. The kitchen's design incorporates a useful breakfast bar area. Adjoining the kitchen is the open plan family room. This has highly appealing wood-effect flooring and there is a wall inset contemporary feature fireplace.

The sitting room has the same highly appealing wood-effect flooring and a feature fireplace.

The entrance hall has smart high gloss floor tiling. The excellent sized dining room has further contemporary floor tiling.

The bathroom and separate WC feature modern white fittings, and the bathroom has both a bath and a modern shower cubicle.

The rear garden is also immaculately presented, having a good sized lawn and attractive decked seating area.

BLOXWICH £325,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Goodchilds Estate Agents

TEL: 01922 711444

EMAIL: Bloxwich@goodchilds-uk.com

KEY FEATURES

Impressive extended detached bungalow

3/4 bedrooms

Extended kitchen/family room

Front sitting room

High specification fixtures



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Werneth Grove, Turnberry Estate

- Extended Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Main Lounge
- Sitting Room and Dining Area
- Conservatory
- EPC - TBC

£325,000

NEW

Sanstone Road, Bloxwich

- Impressive Extended Detached Bungalow
- Three/Four Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Extended Kitchen/Family Room
- High Specification Fixtures
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Viewing Essential
- EPC - D (61)

£325,000

Stafford Road, Bloxwich

- Well Presented Detached Family Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Recently Refurbished
- Generous Driveway and Single Garage
- Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- EPC - D (67)

£250,000

NO CHAIN

Long Lane, Great Wryley

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Extended Lounge & Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Potential for Further Extension
- Superb Views Across Open Fields
- EPC - D (62)

£225,000

NO CHAIN

Stamping Way, Bloxwich

- Immaculately Presented Town House
- Contemporary Style Decor
- Three/Four Bedrooms
- Fitted Wardrobes to the Master Bedroom
- Rear Garage and Parking Space
- EPC - C (80)

£190,000

NO CHAIN

Stoney Lane, Bloxwich

- Extended Traditional Semi-Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Side Utility Space
- EPC - TBC

£189,950

Walhouse Road, Walsall

- Very Well Presented Period Style Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms
- EPC - E (39)

£185,000

Sanstone Road, Bloxwich

- Impressive Extended Detached Bungalow
- Three/Four Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Extended Kitchen/Family Room
- High Specification Fixtures
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Viewing Essential
- EPC - D (61)

£325,000

Griffins Crescent, Walsall

- 'The Kingsford' Design by Taylor Wimpey
- Popular Saddlers Brook Development
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Easy Access to Local Towns and the M6
- Granite Tiled Flooring in Hall & Kitchen
- EPC - C (79)

£185,000

NO CHAIN

Penmire Grove, Rushall

- Spacious Three Storey Town House
- Very Well Presented Throughout
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- En-Suite to the Master
- Driveway for Two Cars
- EPC - B (81)

£180,000

NEW

Woden Road, Wednesbury

- Extended Semi-Detached House
- Superb Extended Kitchen
- Open Plan Lounge/Conservatory
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Easy Access to the M6 Motorway
- Shops close-by at Gallagher Retail Park
- Viewing Essential
- EPC - TBC

£150,000

NO CHAIN

Wolverhampton Road, Essington

- Rose Cottage
- Located in Essington Village
- Sauna
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- EPC - D (62)

£175,000

NO CHAIN

Links Court, Turnberry Estate

- Exclusive Over 60's Development
- One Bedroom Apartment
- Parking Space Included
- Luxury Fixtures and Fittings
- Ground Floor
- EPC - B (82)

£169,950

REDUCED

Water Reed Grove, Leamore

- Modern End Terrace
- Superbly Presented Throughout
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- Generous Rear Garden
- Quality Kitchen & Bathroom
- EPC - C (78)

£134,950

NO CHAIN

Bentley Lane, Reedswood

- Modern End of Terrace Property
- Allocated Parking
- Built by Cala Homes in 2008
- Ground Floor WC
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- EPC - TBC

£125,000

Somerfield Road, Bloxwich

- Very Well Presented Mid-Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Contemporary Style Lounge
- Dining Area
- Modern Extended Kitchen
- EPC - TBC

£125,000

NEW

Parklands Gardens, Birmingham

- Ground Floor Flat
- Bedroom Plus Study
- Garage
- Kitchen with Integrated Appliances
- Extensively Refurbished
- EPC - E (44)

£99,950

REDUCED

Netley Road, Mossley

- Well Maintained Semi-Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- EPC - D (55)

O.I.E.O £100,000

Walker Road, Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- EPC - B (83)

£80,000

NO CHAIN

Springhill Court, Sutton Road

- Two Bedroom Town Centre Flat
- Second Floor
- Communal Parking
- Very Good Condition Throughout
- Double Glazing & Electric Heating
- EPC - F (31)

O.I.E.O £80,000

NO CHAIN

Elmore Green, Bloxwich

- No Chain
- Victorian Terrace
- Off Road Parking to the Rear
- Rear Garage
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Potential to convert to a HMO
- Located close to the High Street
- Close to Bloxwich Train Station
- EPC - TBC

£120,000

Elmore Green, Bloxwich

- No Chain
- Victorian Terrace
- Off Road Parking to the Rear
- Rear Garage
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Potential to convert to a HMO
- Located close to the High Street
- Close to Bloxwich Train Station
- EPC - TBC

£120,000

NEW

Church place, Bloxwich

- Spacious Modern First Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Approx 7% Yield
- Tenant Currently Paying £475pcm
- Modern Bathroom
- EPC - B (85)

£79,950

NEW

Broad Lane Gardens, Bloxwich

- Offered By Modern Method of Auction
- Three Bedroom End of Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Cul-De-Sac Location off Broad Lane
- Kitchen/Diner
- EPC - TBC

Guide Price £75,000

Call 01922 711444 for your Free Valuation



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Ideal family terraced home is located in a popular area

WALSALL
£175,000 <<<

This spaciously proportioned four-bedroomed terraced house in a popular area in Slaney Road, Bescot, Walsall, lies in a quiet location in a no through road off Bescot Road.

An ideal family home, on the market for £175,000, it is conveniently situated for all amenities, including public transport, the M6 Motorway at Junction 9 (just one km away), local shops and schools.

It has a vestibule entrance, a reception hall, a through lounge/dining room, breakfast room, a part tiled kitchen with access to the rear yard off, four bedrooms and a bathroom and a paved fore garden.

In more detail the through lounge/dining room has wood-effect flooring and the bathroom has a modern white coloured suite, full width tiling and white painted floorboards.

Contact the agents Fraser Wood on 01922 627686.



Deceptively spacious detached property

PELSALL
£390,000

A well-presented and deceptively spacious detached property on Lichfield Road, Pelsall, Walsall, is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents for offers over £390,000.

The residence briefly comprises a through hallway, lounge, dining room, generous family living kitchen, conservatory, guest WC, three/four bedrooms, an en-suite, and a family bathroom.

In addition, there is an indoor swimming pool, conservatory, family room, utility area and shower room, landscaped gardens and a generous driveway. The landscaped gardens feature a paved patio, ornate gravel areas, and a pond with water pump and filter. The garden is laid to lawn. To book that all important viewing, call Webbs on 01922



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Property Auction

**Monday 2nd July 2018
7pm Prompt at
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Watling Street, Hatherton,
Cannock, WS11 1SB**

- LOT 1 - 20 Norton Green Lane, Norton Canes, WS11 9PR

End terraced house £4.680 PA Guide £65,000+
- LOT 2 - 30 Old Fallow Road, Cannock, WS11 5QJ

Two bed detached bungalow Guide £125,000
- LOT 3 - 31 Old Penkridge Road, Cannock, WS11 1HX

Two bed end terrace Guide £120,000
- LOT 4 - 21 Balmoral Drive, Hednesford, WS12 4LT

Extended semi detached bungalow Guide £120,000
- LOT 5 - 196 Bradbury Lane, Hednesford, WS12 4EP

Three bed semi detached house Guide £55,000+
- LOT 6 - Flat 3 Grosvenor Court, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, WS11 1BA

Leasehold investment Guide £60,000+
- LOT 7 - 18 Coppice Road, Rugeley, WS15 1LN

Semi detached house Guide £70,000+
- LOT 8 - Land Rear of Heath Gap Road, Cannock

Parcel of Freehold land (0.228 acres or thereabouts) Guide £10,000+
- LOT 9 - Building Land Fronting Kilmore Road, Cannock, WS11 1HT

PP for det4 bed house. Guide £100,000-£125,000+
- LOT 10 - The Orchard, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, WS11 1AS

Spacious detached bungalow Guide £180,000+
- LOT 11 - Building Plots Adj, The Orchard, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, WS11 1AS

OPP for two 4 bed detached houses Guide £180,000+
- LOT 12 - Land Rear of Rickerscote Avenue, Stafford, ST17 4EZ

Building plot PP for 4 bed detached house Guide £70,000

Address	Wednesday 13th, 20th & 27th June	Saturday 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th June
18 Coppice Road, Rugeley	9.00am	9.00am
196 Bradbury Lane, Hednesford	9.45am	9.45am
21 Balmoral Drive, Hednesford	10.15am	10.15am
30 Old Fallow Road, Cannock	10.45am	10.45am
31 Old Penkridge Road, Cannock	11.15am	11.15am
20 Norton Green Lane, Norton Canes	11.45am	11.45am
The Orchard, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock	12.30pm	12.30pm
Flat 3 Grosvenor Court Wolverhampton Road, Cannock	By prior appointment with agents	
Land Rear of Heath Gap Road Cannock	BY CALLING ON SITE WITH AUCTION CATALOGUE TO HAND	
Building Plots Adj The Orchard, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock		
Land Rear of Rickerscote Avenue, Mossquit, Stafford		
Building Land Fronting Kilmore Road, Cannock		

01543 505454

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PROPERTY



Family house
is extended
and has nice
open views

GREAT WYRLEY
£224,950 <<<

A traditional-style extended semi-detached family home, 113 Long Lane, Great Wyrley, Walsall, lies in a semi-rural location with views over open farmland.

It is for sale through Marrior & Co Estate Agents at £224,950 with no chain.

With double glazing and gas central heating, the property briefly comprises a spacious lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, utility room, downstairs WC, four bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway, a small garage/ workshop and a garden to the rear.

Located in one of the borough's most favoured roads with a 'rural' feel, the property enjoys open views over farm land. The property is within easy reach of many local amenities.

Call Marrior & Co Estate Agents on 01922 404446.

B

ESSINGTON

● Individually designed Detached residence of considerable merit, particularly pleasantly positioned in highly sought after location and perfectly placed for convenient commuting into the conurbation. ● Extended accommodation of surprisingly spacious layout, beautifully presented with lovely blend of traditional and contemporary styles and all appointed to superlative standard. ● Fitted Cloakroom off Hall. ● Bay-fronted Lounge. ● 20ft. Dining Room. ● Stunning 20ft. Breakfast Kitchen recently refurbished with lavish range of fittings and appliances. ● Open plan to 160 sq.ft Family/Sitting Room with spectacular feature bi-folding doors to garden. ● Master Bedroom with Shower Room en-suite. ● Three further first-floor Bedrooms served by Family Bathroom. ● Versatile second-floor Bedroom Five/Of-ice/Playroom with en-suite Toilet Room. ● Gas-fired central heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● Garage plus gated forecourt parking facilities. ● Nicely landscaped garden enjoying southerly aspect. (EPC: C)

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Character packed flat
with two-bedrooms

GREAT WYRLEY
£100,000

L&S Prestige Estates are delighted to offer for sale this fully refurbished character-packed two-bedroomed ground floor apartment in Broadmeadow Lane, Great Wyrley.

It is for sale at offers over £100,000.

The home lies in the very popular area of Great Wyrley. A great bungalow alternative, it has well laid out accommodation which comprises a generous open plan kitchen and lounge, two bedrooms and a bathroom.

To the fore there is a patio area with a garden laid to lawn and off-road parking. To the rear there is an enclosed paved courtyard.

The property is located close to good local schools, amenities and excellent transport links. Internal viewing highly recommended to appreciate size and standard of accommodation on offer.

Call 01902 606595.



Family house has real 'wow' factor set in a popular area

BLOXWICH
£240,000

<<<

This home packed with the "wow factor" in Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich, Walsall, is exceptionally well presented and deceptively spacious.

An outstanding family home, it is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at offers over £240,000. The property lies in a popular location, close to all local amenities.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a through hallway, an extended lounge, a dining/family room, a utility/guest WC, a breakfast kitchen, three double bedrooms, a stunning bathroom and a separate WC. It also has a generous driveway, garage and landscaped gardens.

In more detail, the through hallway has solid wood flooring, stairs off and a storage cupboard. The dining/family room has a window to the front and wooden flooring. Contact Webbs Estate Agents on 01922 663399.



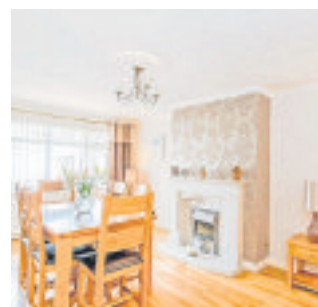
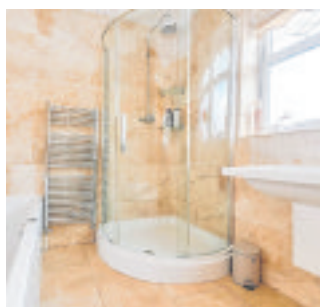
Home packed with period features

BLOXWICH
£470,000

This stunning traditional detached family home in Stafford Road, Bloxwich, comes with generous accommodation and landscaped gardens on an enviable corner plot.

Also backing onto a golf course and having stunning original features dating from 1929, it is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at £470,000.

This very well-presented and generously proportioned home has accommodation which briefly comprises a through hallway, lounge, dining room, sitting room, kitchen, utility room, shower room, ground floor bedroom, galleried landing, four further bedrooms, bathroom, separate WC, an en-suite to the master and a garage. To book a viewing, call Webbs Estate Agents on 01922 663399.



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PROPERTY AUCTION EXPERTS

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WILLENHALL

Willenhall Road, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV1

£150,000



A modern style three storey mid-town house situated in the Wolverhampton area. The property comprises of Hall, Guest W.C, Kitchen/Diner, Lounge, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Ensuites, Driveway and Integral Garage. This property also benefits for gas central heating and double glazing throughout.

Broadmeadows Close, Willenhall



Paul Dubberley are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £135,000 for Broadmeadows Close, WV12 5JW. Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Paul Dubberley 14 New Road, Willenhall, WV13 2BG 01902 633323 before exchange of contracts

Gipsy Lane, Willenhall, WV13



We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £125,000 on the property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is "E"

Circuit Close, Willenhall

£55,000



A first floor one bedroom apartment in the Willenhall area. The property comprises of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen, Master Bedroom and Bathroom. The property also benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. NO UPWARD CHAIN AND CASH OFFERS ONLY.

01902 633 323 willeshall@pauldubberley.co.uk
14 New Road, Willenhall WV13 2BG





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NEW **Fullelove Road, Brownhills, Walsall**
Brownhills, Walsall






EPC 66

- POPULAR LOCATION
- PORCH
- HALLWAY
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY
- 3 BEDROOMS
- EPC RATING - D

\$139,950

NEW **Clarendon Street, Bloxwich, Walsall**
Bloxwich, Walsall



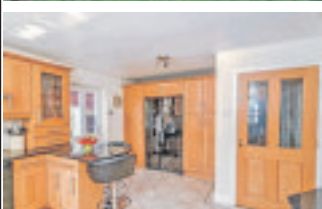
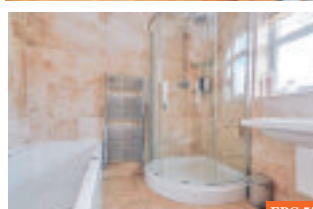



EPC 0

- CHARACTER PROPERTY
- SEMI DETACHED
- HALLWAY, LOUNGE
- KITCHEN, UTILITY
- 2 DOUBLE BEDROOM
- BATHROOM
- REAR GARDEN
- DRIVEWAY & CARPORT

\$124,950

NEW **Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich, Walsall**
Bloxwich, Walsall








EPC 55

- DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS
- OUTSTANDING FAMILY HOME
- EXTENDED LOUNGE
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- STUNNING BATHROOM
- EXCEPTIONALLY WELL PRESENTED
- GARDENS
- EPC RATING D

\$240,000

NEW **Grenfell Road, Little Bloxwich, Walsall**
Little Bloxwich, Walsall








EPC 0

- EXTENDED SEMI
- HALLWAY
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- 2 BEDROOMS, SHOWER ROOM
- NO CHAIN
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

\$132,500

NEW **Colliers Close, Willenhall**
Willenhall

EPC 0

- DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS
- LOUNGE/DINER
- CONSERVATORY
- 3 BEDROOMS
- REFITTED SHOWER ROOM
- DRIVEWAY
- GARDENS
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL

\$175,000

NEW **Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich, Walsall**
Bloxwich, Walsall


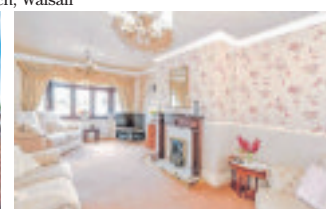
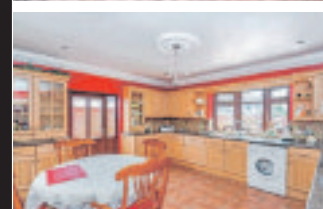
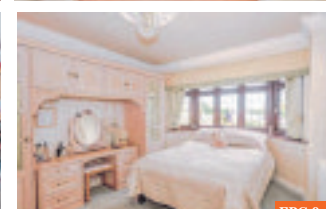



EPC 64

- DETACHED PROPERTY
- HALLWAY, LOUNGE
- KITCHEN, DINING ROOM
- 4 BEDROOMS
- EN-SUITE BED 1
- BATHROOM
- DRIVEWAY & GARAGE
- EPC RATING - D

\$245,000

NEW **Sanstone Road, Bloxwich, Walsall**
Bloxwich, Walsall

EPC 0

- SPACIOUS BUNGALOW
- LOUNGE/DINER
- KITCHEN
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- GARAGE
- DRIVEWAY
- GARDENS

\$299,950

Sadler Mill, Sadlers Road, Brownhills, Walsall
Brownhills, Walsall




EPC 73

- 1ST FLOOR APARTMENT
- LOUNGE/DINER
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- 2 BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- POPULAR LOCATION
- PARKING
- EPC RATING C

\$112,950

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0121 520 2255

bilston@skitts.net
bloxwich@skitts.net

01902 353578
01922 478104

Hinges Road,
Bloxwich

NEW

£300,000

	2		4
	2	EPC	C



Somerford
Place, Willenhall

Offers £300,000

	2		4
	2	EPC	E



Westway, Pelsall

NEW

Offers £249,950

	2		4
	1	EPC	TBC



Belinda Close,
Willenhall

£160,000

	1		3
	1	EPC	D



Bloxwich Road
South, Willenhall

Offers £150,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	D



Coppice Lane,
Willenhall

£145,000

	1		3
	1	EPC	D



Chatsworth
Close, Willenhall

Offers £130,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	TBC



Ratcliffe Road,
Off Stubby Lane,
Wednesfield

Offers £66,000

	1		1
	1	EPC	C



Derby Street,
Walsall

NEW

Auction Guide Price £60,000

	2		2
	1	EPC	E



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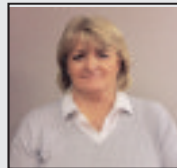


Tel: 01922 404446

212 High Street, Bloxwich, WS3 3LA



Paul Marrion - Partner



Kathy Marrion - Partner

www.marrion.co.uk



Energy Rating - C **NEW**

SSTC Similar Required

Smithfield Road Walsall

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Driveway
- Gardens

£134,950

Energy Rating - D **NEW**

Bealeys Lane Bloxwich

- Extended Three bed Semi-detached House
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room, Downstairs WC,
- Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom,
- Garage, Driveway
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£239,950

Energy Rating - D **NEW**

Reduced

Roebuck Road Leamore

- Mid terrace house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, shower room/WC
- Driveway
- Garden
- Call 01922 404446

£124,995

Energy Rating - D **NEW**

To Let

Tintern Crescent Bloxwich

- Mid terrace house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom, separate WC
- Garden and off road parking
- SORRY NO DSS, PETS OR SMOKERS
- £180 reference fee applies

£575

Energy Rating - TBC **NEW**

Church View Bloxwich

- Modern End Town House
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Lounge, Fitted kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Driveway
- Gardens

£120,000

Energy Rating - E **NEW**

Ingram Road Bloxwich

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, utility
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage
- Gardens
- Driveway

£170,000

Energy Rating - B **NEW**

SSTC Similar Required

Stamping Way Bloxwich

- Three storey end town house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen,
- Separate Dining Room,
- Downstairs Cloakroom/WC
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Shower Room

£189,950

Energy Rating - TBC **NEW**

Broad Lane Bloxwich

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, conservatory
- 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway and gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Must Be Viewed

£279,950

Energy Rating - TBC **NEW**

Hall Lane Pelsall

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage
- Driveway
- Gardens

£350,000

Energy Rating - TBC **NEW**

Enderley Drive Bloxwich

- Spacious detached bungalow
- Gas centrally heated & PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, Dining room, kitchen/Diner, Utility Room
- 2 Double bedrooms, bathroom,
- Single garage,
- Large Driveway
- Attractive Rear Gardens
- No Onward Chain

£260,000

Energy Rating - C **NEW**

Nest Common Pelsall

- Detached House
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Lounge, study
- kitchen, utility
- 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- 2 car garage
- driveway, gardens

£499,999

Energy Rating - D **NEW**

Aldridge Road Walsall

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- 2 reception rooms, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage
- Driveway
- Gardens

£375,000

Energy Rating - C **NEW**

Northumberland Way Walsall

- Modern Semi Detached House
- PVCu Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Three Bedroom (Master with En-suite)
- Lounge, Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs cloakroom/wc
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden

£180,000

Energy Rating - TBC **NEW**

Kenton Avenue Wolverhampton

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Driveway and Gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Must Be Viewed

£169,950

Energy Rating - E **NEW**

Willow Grove Essington

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Driveway
- Gardens
- Must Be Viewed

£239,950

Energy Rating - D **NEW**

Wolverhampton Road Pelsall

- Immaculately Presented Traditional Semi-Detached H
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Downstairs Shower R
- 3 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Garage, Driveway
- Timber Workshop
- Excellent sized Rear Graden
- Must Be Viewed

£199,950

Energy Rating - TBC **NEW**

Wetherby Road Turnberry

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Detached garage, driveway, garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Driveway, Garden

£215,000

Energy Rating - TBC **NEW**

Valley Road Bloxwich

- End town house
- Gas centrally heated
- Partially double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen, conservatory
- 3 bedrooms, shower room/WC
- Driveway
- Garden
- Workshop

£140,000

Energy Rating - TBC **NEW**

Station Road Pelsall

- Individually Designed Detached Family Home.
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- 4 Bedroom (Master with en-suite)
- Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility
- Study / 5th Bedroom
- Garage & Driveway
- Rear Garden
- Must Be Viewed

£400,000

Energy Rating - C **NEW**

Warner Road Walsall

- End Town House
- Gas Central Heating
- Lounge, Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs Bathroom,
- Three excellent sized Bedrooms
- Brick built Garage, Driveway
- Rear Garden
- Cul-De-Sac Location

£120,000

Energy Rating - E

Reduced

Well Lane Leamore

- Well Presented End of Terrace
- Gas Central Heating
- PVCu Double Glazing (where specified)
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms,
- Driveway, Rear Garden

£114,950

Energy Rating - E

Broad Lane Bloxwich

- Victorian end town house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Low maintenance garden
- Detached garage to rear

£115,000

Energy Rating - D

Pine Close Great Wyrley

- Link detached bungalow
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazing
- Kitchen, lounge
- 2 double bedrooms, shower room/WC
- Single car garage
- Driveway
- Gardens

£230,000

Energy Rating - D

Carrick Close Pelsall

- Open views to front
- Extended Semi-Detached Family Home
- PVCu Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Three Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Three Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Large Tandem Garage

£250,000

Energy Rating - E

Stafford Road Great Wyrley

- Deceptively Spacious Detached Bungalow
- Gas Central Heating, PVCu Double Glazing
- 2 Bedrooms
- Rear Lounge, Sun Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom/WC
- Side Attached Garage
- Large Landscaped Gardens

£289,950

We know the value of good service...

Niro justifies price tag on all fronts especially powertrain

By John Griffiths

It has the sharp looks and family car practicality that you'd expect of a serious entry in the highly competitive world of sports utility vehicles (SUVs).

But Kia's 2018 Niro is different: this world new £30,495 flagship version is the economy king of the SUV, cutting running costs and taxes with economy figures which eclipse even the most frugal of its diesel rivals.

Officially the figure is 67.3mpg for the petrol engine but – and this was a surprise to me – I actually managed to exceed that in real world driving. A 120-mile mainly motorway and A-road run returned 74.5mpg according to the trip computer, while on a series of shorter journeys the average was even better at over 80mpg thanks to the assistance provided by the electric motor.

Seeing the trip meter's 'range to empty' calculation climbing as you drive was also a first.

The secret of the new Niro PHEV (plug-in electric vehicle) is an efficient 1.5 litre petrol engine combined with a 44.5kw, or approximately 59bhp, working separately or together in perfect harmony through a six-speed dual clutch gearbox, as opposed to the CVT system normally found on hybrids.

The arrangement is a first in the compact SUV class. It uses the same 1,580cc petrol engine as the first Niro



Inside it's sleek with plenty of equipment

parallel hybrid launched two years ago, but with a more powerful electric motor and larger battery pack. This allows the car to run potentially for up to 38 miles on electricity alone – for some motorists that would mean a petrol and emissions-free commute.

You can recharge the battery in two to three hours from a normal 13-amp socket, or more quickly from an EV charging point. It's well worth the two minute job of hooking up as when you're on the open road and using the hybrid drivetrain you get the joint benefits of livelier performance and improved economy.

Using both power sources, the Niro does the benchmark 0 to 62mph sprint in 10.5 seconds.

The electric motor helps the petrol engine on both counts. For instance you still start off on the electric motor, overcoming initial inertia, and the car automatically selects electric power during low speed manoeuvring or while crawling in traffic – all things which help drain your wallet on fossil-fuel only cars. You can swap modes manually, by pressing a button on the centre console. Regenerative braking, when you're coasting or braking, helps to keep the battery active.

The Niro has sleek looks and a low roofline, which is another surprise since there's no shortage of headroom inside for a driver and passengers of six-foot or a little more. It also has a family-sized 427 litre boot, rising to 1,425 litres with the rear seats folded down.

Yet it also means improved aerodynamics and sharper handling than some of its rivals, while as there is no 4x4 option the suspension is tuned for a comfortable on-road ride. It's quiet too – both in hybrid and electric models.

As well as the new powertrain, the flagship Niro PHEV is the best equipped model in the range justifying its £30,495 price. The Niro range starts from £23,135.

Safety systems are comprehensive including ABS and stability control plus hill start assist, rear crossing traffic alert, auto emergency braking and lane keep assist.

For many of us, £30,000 is a lot of money but the Niro justifies its tag on space and equipment – it's a nice car in its own right – before we come to the impressively efficient new power train, with its promise of fuel and tax savings over the life of the car.

With its ultra-low CO2 rating of 29g/km, the Phev is free from car tax in the first year, with the minimum £130 thereafter. The benefit-in-kind tax rate for company car drivers is a low 13 per cent.

But the icing on the cake is Kia's unique seven-year or 100,000 mile warranty.

You have to admire the Niro PHEV as a piece of technology, with its seamless combination of petrol and electric power and the smooth transmission. The fact that this technology is of direct benefit to owners and their pockets is just as it should be.



The Niro has sleek looks and a low roofline

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Kia range of vehicles are between Urban: 29.1 (9.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Extra-Urban: 46.3 (6.1) – 94.2 (3.0) and Combined: 38.2 (7.4) – 88.3 (3.2). The official CO2 emissions for the Kia range of vehicles are between 86 – 189g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit kia.co.uk or see your local dealer. *You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made. T&Cs apply. Subject to status. 18s or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. Price and specification is subject to change without notice. Offers subject to stock availability, terms and conditions. Acorn Kia is a credit broker not a lender for this financial promotion. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Pictures for illustration purposes only.





Suzuki's new Swift Sport supermini

Finance offers for new Suzuki Sport

Suzuki has announced finance offers for June for the new Swift Sport and available in conjunction with the June launch customer saving price of £16,499. Both PCP and HP schemes are available.

A £750 Finance Deposit Allowance (FDA) is offered for the launch month and with no further customer deposit required. If a PCP (Personal Contract Purchase) is chosen, payments are £258 per month based on a 49 month agreement with a final optional payment of £5,943 to keep the car.

Alternatively, should a customer prefer to place a deposit of £2,530 plus the £750 Finance allowance from Suzuki then the PCP monthly payments will reduce to £199 per month, again based on a 49 month agreement and with a final optional payment of £5,943. Both agreements have a representative APR of 5.9 per cent and are based on 8,000 miles per annum.

For customers who would prefer a Hire Purchase arrangement, the £750 allowance also applies and with no further deposit required. Monthly payments are £368 and the agreement duration is 48 months. Payments can reduce to £299 per month if a customer chooses to place a deposit of £2,954, again with a representative APR of 5.9 per cent.

Standard equipment for the new Sport is comprehensive and includes unique sport interior trim with semi bucket seats and red accents to the dashboard and console areas, six airbags, auto air conditioning, satellite navigation, leather steering wheel, privacy glass, DAB radio with Bluetooth and six speakers, LED daytime running lights, 17-inch wheels, body coloured door mirrors and four electric windows.

Distinctive looks, well-priced and good blend of performance and economy

By John Griffiths

Mitsubishi's newest model has a double-barrelled name – the Eclipse Cross.

That's probably to distinguish this latest crossover from the previous Eclipse, a sports car. But it may also signal the company's hopes that it will eclipse its many rivals in the most competitive area of the car market.

It will certainly have an impact. Its price, on-road dynamics and a proven all-wheel drive system for which Mitsubishi is renowned set it apart from many of its rivals.

Prices start from £21,275 (front wheel drive only) to £27,900 for the top spec model with four wheel drive and an automatic transmission. In terms of size it sits between the companies smaller ASX and the flagship Outlander.

At present the only engine option is a 1.5 litre petrol unit, but a 2.2 litre turbo diesel will follow.

The new petrol motor is efficient, particular in terms of a car of this size. With 163bhp, it whisks the Eclipse Cross to 62mph in under ten seconds and its official (laboratory tested) fuel average if 40.4mpg. As we know, those lab test figures aren't replicated in real world driving but I was pleasantly surprised by the auto transmission test car's ability to consistently record 35mpg (much of it over the challenging roads of the Peak District).

That was achieved while mainly using 'Eco' mode which does impact on performance by holding on to the higher ratios and calming throttle response. Switch off the Eco button, though, and the car reveals its sportier side. You can override your economical ambitions temporarily (for a nice quick overtake, for example) by using the kickdown facility along with manual downchanges using the paddles behind the steering wheel.

Eco tends to be the quieter mode, too, with revs rarely exceeding 2,000rpm although even when pushed harder the Eclipse Cross isn't noisy – the petrol engine is sewing machine smooth and the aerodynamics surprisingly slippery for an SUV, meaning there's little wind noise.

Mitsubishi designed the stiff chassis and suspension for a more rewarding and dynamic on-road drive, with none of the harshness and body roll sometimes found on an off-road capable car. That, of course, means a more relaxed driving experience and comfortable ride – as good if not better than some typical saloon cars. If you should venture off-road (or get caught up in snow) a simple press of a centre console button engages the all-wheel drive system.

The Eclipse Cross looks big: it's tall and comes with the



The Eclipse Cross is sleeker, less chunky than some competitors with a relatively aerodynamic front

high 'hip height' for easy access and command seating position for excellent visibility. But it's also sleeker, less chunky than some competitors with a relatively aerodynamic front and a distinctive rear – you certainly won't miss it at night with the rear lighting cluster which wraps around the rear spoiler. This bisects the rear window, but without noticeably detracting from your view in the mirror.

The interior of the top spec Eclipse Cross 4 test car has a premium feel, with its leather-clad sports style seats (electrically adjustable) and multi-function steering wheel.

Rear seat passengers do particularly well, as you can increase the already generous legroom by sliding the 'bench' backwards and a multi-position tilt system which allows them to really stretch out and relax.

Boot space is 448 litres, but since the rear seats also have a 60:40 split/fold facility you also have the opportunity to juggle between the needs of passengers and cargo.

Driver aids include a new and up-to-the minute touch screen controller in the centre of the dash, with

smartphone and bluetooth compatability, as well as controlling, amongst other things, the audi system,

There's also a head-up display which projects information such as speed, adaptive cruise control, speed limiter and lane departure warning and cameras and short range lasers provide help with parking in tight spots as well as blind spot and forward collision mitigation warnings.

The Eclipse Cross is competitively priced and offers more room in the cabin than many of its rivals, while outside its styling is distinctive and the new 1.5 litre petrol engine offers a good blend of performance and economy.

Mitsubishi's name is inextricably linked to two diverse sectors of the car market – performance models such as the AWD Evo and more traditional SUVs like the hard-working Shogun. The more you delve into the engineering of the Eclipse Cross, the more you can see this how this experience is combined in the new car with its on-road dynamics, off-road capability (if you choose an AWD version), with styling and technology which are right up to the minute.

Rest well before driving long distances

Drivers need to be properly rested before setting off on long journeys, says breakdown and road safety organisation GEM Motoring Assist. The advice comes as families from across the UK are planning their summer holiday journeys lasting hours or even days.

Being tired when you're driving raises the risk of a collision, because you're less aware of what's happening around you. Your ability to react is impaired if a risky situation develops.

That's why fatigue can be a factor in up to 20% of all road collisions, and up to 25% of fatal and serious crashes.

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth says: "We want you to ensure your holiday starts the moment you close the front door and set off, but safety has to come first. If you're on a long road journey, make sure you're properly rested before you set out, and build in regular breaks on long journeys to help stay fresh, observant and aware.

"This is particularly important if you've changed your routine and are driving early or late – or even through the night – to avoid the queues.

"A fatigue-related crash is around 50 per cent more likely to result in death or serious injury, simply because a driver who has fallen asleep at the wheel will be unable to reduce speed or change direction to avoid a collision. The consequences can be devastating.

Neil Worth warns of the tell-tale signs of driver fatigue. "There are many recognisable warning signs before you actually nod off at the wheel. These include difficulty focusing on the driving task, fidgeting and frequent yawning and rubbing. As fatigue worsens, it will be increasingly difficult to focus on



Being tired when you're driving raises the risk of a collision

driving. Accompanying this could be drifting to the left or right and an inability to maintain a constant speed."

GEM offers a few simple tips for drivers to reduce the risk of a fatigue-related collision:

- Get a good night's sleep before you drive a long journey.
- Build in time to reach your destination (or your night-stop) without rushing. Remove time pressures wherever possible.
- On long journeys, take a break of at least 15 minutes after every two hours or 100 miles. Get out of the car, do some exercise, stretch or walk. If necessary, have a caffeine drink or

two to boost your alertness.

- If you are driving all day, schedule a proper hour-long break in the middle of the day, as this serves to split the day's driving into two shorter and more manageable halves.
- Avoid driving alone for long distances if possible. Share the driving, and support each other by watching for any signs of fatigue.
- Don't press on into the night. Avoid driving at times when you would be asleep.

GEM's video on understanding dangers of fatigue is available at www.motoringassist.com/fatigue

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Every Sunday 8am - 2pm
Gates open 6am

A34 Cannock Chase, Brocton, between
Cannock and Stafford, ST17 0SG.
Sellers £5

07890 267 041

CAR BOOT SALES! Every Sunday

and Bank Holiday Monday
Muckley Corner, Half Lane,
Lichfield, WS14 0BE

Boaters £5
6.00am-1pm

07538 842842

WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY BEST BOOTSALE

Ivy House Farm, A461, Springhill,
Muckley Corner, WS14 0BX

07890 267 041

Caravans Wanted

★ All Caravans Wanted ★
★ Any Age or Condition ★
★ "CASH" * WAITING * ★
★ Immediate collection ★
★ Call Bill on 07825 325 913 ★

Caravans/ Motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW
35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym
Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further?
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828277. sales@clarchbay.com

Caravan and camper
all types of repairs,
Collection considered
Campers and caravans wanted
from £50 - £4000 paid
Anything considered
07496 172 252

Holiday Home for sale -2017

Willerby Wrekin

BRAND NEW Limited edition, enhanced
features £28,995 on a stunning 5 star park
in The Welsh Marches set above the River
Severn with private fishing & stunning
Bowling Pavilion Nr. Shrewsbury.
Will appeal to retired people & couples.

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Sports & Leisure

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IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
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excellent condition, £50 ono.
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holidays

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BUDE, CORNWALL 2 BED
CHALET sleeps 4 - 6, On 4* wood-
land site, pool & free entertainment.
June, Sep, Oct £130pw, July,
£180pw, school Holidays £395pw.
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Pet Friendly
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Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED
to check with any Advertisers
that their holiday costs are fully
covered by a recognised bonding or
insurance scheme.

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE DALES

Meadow Holidays
Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale
"Weeks from £209 per couple"
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Families Welcome
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls
or visit historic market towns with friendly Inns
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email: ritae@meadowholidays.com
www.meadowholidays.com

what's on

Antique Fairs

VINTAGE ANTIQUE / Collectables
Fair, Coven Memorial Hall W9
5DL, Sunday 17 June, 9-3, Karen
01384 277373 / 07938 123040.

Book Fair

BOOK FAIR Kinvor Community
Centre, DVT 6ER, Inc postcards
Sunday 17th June and 15th July.
Next Antique Fair 1st July.
Est 1979, Waverley, Refreshments
available. 0121 550 4381.

Markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT

At Stourbridge
Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday
from 16th May
07957 399964

Summer Fayre

SUMMER FAIR
Bentley Methodist Church,
Margaret Road, Bentley,
Variety of stalls, Tombola and
Refreshments
Sat, June 16.
10am - 12pm.

3 Home & Services

Antiques

Louis Taylor

House Clearances & Collections arranged
at short notice for our monthly auctions
01782 638100

Furniture

GPLAN One three seater settee and
one chair, beige, leather, material,
very good sound frame. Good con-
dition. £70. 0121 556 8535.

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6x5 Lap Panels

£17 each (inc vat)
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and Trade.

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before agreeing to the sale of any
of their items.

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sional advice before entering into
obligations.

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Certified technician &
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Repair & maintain laptops
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WE WILL BEAT ANY QUOTE!
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4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies
have the required Passport infor-
mation, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and using
guns.

Pets Corner

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All neutered, inoculated
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Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
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needs homes for kittens Jack & Jill,
black, 7 months. Lucy, black/white
young cat. 0121 502 5027.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accom-
modation Agencies Act 1953, for an
Agency to charge a fee simply for
the registration of your require-
ments and/or supplying particulars
of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments/contracts.

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★ MOVE IN TODAY ★
Studios
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A TRAINEE

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to make superb handbags and
leather goods.

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9 Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 319694 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Walsall Council, Planning, Engineering and Transportation

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning.services@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning, Engineering and Transportation, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

18/0689 Manohar Singh FOR: PART SINGLE STOREY PART TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSIONS (RESUBMISSION OF 17/1070). AT: 31, ARBORETUM ROAD, WALSALL, WS1 2QH

18/0538 Huazhong Dai FOR: CHANGE OF USE FROM A1 (RETAIL) TO A3 (RESTAURANT) AND ASSOCIATED WORKS AND EQUIPMENT AT: SEYMOUR HOUSE, GREEN LANE, WALSALL, WS2 8HE

18/0095 Walsall Council FOR: VARIATION OF CONDITION 23 ATTACHED TO PA 13/1471/FL TO ALLOW THE SITE OF THE FORMER LEISURE CENTRE BUILDING TO BE USED FOR ADDITIONAL PARKING (166 SPACES) INSTEAD OF THE TWO JUNIOR FOOTBALL PITCHES APPROVED. AT: SITE OF FORMER OAK PARK LEISURE CENTRE, LICHFIELD ROAD, WALSALL, WOOD, WS9 9DQ

18/0637 Queen Mary's High School FOR: ROOF REPAIR AND ASSOCIATED REPAIRS TO CHIMNEY AND TIMBER WORK WITH WINDOW REPLACEMENTS / REPAIR. AT: QUEEN MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL, UPPER FORSTER STREET, WALSALL, WS4 2AE

18/0068 Lidu UK GmbH FOR: VARIATION OF CONDITION 17 OF 13/1302/FL TO ALLOW DELIVERIES TO THE STORE BETWEEN 0800-2000 MONDAY TO SATURDAY INCLUDING BANK HOLIDAYS AND 1000-1800 ON SUNDAYS. AT: LIDL, 73, ABLEWELL STREET, WALSALL, WS1 2EU

Notice of Cancellation of Registration
(Friendly Societies Act 1974 s.91)
Notice is hereby given that the Financial Conduct Authority has this day cancelled the registration of **Brownhills Hedsnesford Road Working Men's Club** (Register No. 1172 W) the registered office of which is at Brownhills & Hedsnesford Working Mens Club, 8 Hedsnesford Road, Walsall, WS8 7LS. The grounds of the cancellation are that the society has wilfully violated section 43 of the Friendly Societies Act 1974 by not submitting to the Authority any annual returns acceptable for filing since that submitted for the society's financial year ending 31 December 2013.
The society ceases to be entitled to the privileges of a registered society, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by the society, which may be enforced against it as if such cancellation had not taken place.
Date: 11 May 2018

EDNA MAY COOPER (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 13 Lake Avenue Walsall West Midlands WS5 3PA, who died on 28/12/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitor on or before two months from the date of this publication, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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PAM cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431165**

SALLY, sensual slim blonde seeks no strings discreet man 35+ for time meetings. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 431241**

CATHY 42yrs, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431147**

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet man any age/area for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 431239**

JULIE, 47, blonde hair, brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, seeks male 45-60 for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431053**

HELEN, sophisticated, cultured lady, 30 something seeks mature man for life's pleasures. Discreet with no strings. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 430171**

LYN 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTm similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429906**

GILLY, 39yrs, voluptuous sexy well groomed lady. Varied interests, loves mutual pampering. Looking to meet a man for mutual pleasures. Discretion assured & expected. Call me. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 430249**

SANDY, kind lady, 60s, attractive & young looking. Hoping to meet a nice kind gent for outings, chats and more. I will answer all calls & texts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430955**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, sophisticated professional lady, bored with chaps from work, hoping to meet a burly workman! Come on lets have some discreet times. Txt me. **Text Only. Box: 4164576**

MAGGIE, 59yrs, single attractive lady. Hoping to meet a nice kind gent for mutual caring, warmth, romance, lets not be lonely any more. all or bxt me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431123**

PHILIPINA, Asian lady, 32yrs. Respectful, kind with boyish figure. WLTm mature strong minded man. Looks unimportant but must be manly. **Text only. Box: 4161491**

SARAH, 55, single, 5ft10, blonde hair, blue eyes, I've been a widow for the past 6 years, looking to meet someone genuine, caring and who is looking for someone special in their life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431213**

MEGHAN, married, bored, looking for some excitement. I'm 48yrs, attractive with a curvy figure, blonde hair and well dressed. Hoping to meet chap of any age for discreet meetings. **Text only. Box: 4132478**

SUE, 48yrs, petite blonde, curvy size 8, outgoing, cultured, enjoys cosy night cuddles, seeking loving male to make me feel special. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431229**

JANETTE, black lady, 52yrs, kind, romantic with very good sense of humour/fun. Hoping to meet a kind white man for romance, fun and passionate times. **Text Only. Box: 4086142**

AMANDA, 36yrs, attractive lady. Solvent and well educated and spoken. Feminine figure with large breasts. Hoping to meet a broad-minded gent, any age for discreet relationship. I don't mind if you are married or single. **ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box: 429827**

SARA, 43yrs, educated independent attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls don't disappoint me by not replying. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431009**

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks no strings casual fun. I have my own house, car and am solvent. I'm busy with a firm figure. You must be open minded, age/status unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 427633**

PASSIONATE slim young looking blonde, late 40s, who loves everything about life looking for attractive honest guy for friendship, possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430983**

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long legs and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. **ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205**

JENNY 48, blue eyed, cuddly/busty independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTm older male to spoil and look after. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430887**

LINDA, attractive widow with own home & car. Varied interests, kind & caring. Hoping to meet a lovely kind gent 67+. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430845**

NAUGHTY broadminded black lady, 40yrs seeks no strings daytime fun. Call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430837**

VERY attractive curvy widow, longing for romance, seeking country-loving male with old-fashioned values for lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430737**

VERONICA, 40 and fabulous. Attractive black lady seeks white man for intimate fun & friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431129**

KAREN 41yrs, long legged blonde lady seeks no strings fun with chap of any age. **ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box: 430251**

JOAN, 50 something black lady. Varied interests, intelligent and interesting. Hoping to meet a gent 50+ who is looking for romance and love. Lets not mess around, call me soon. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431127**

DISCREET sensual and loving lady seeks man 30+ for daytime fun in her home. **ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 429849**

GENUINE, kind & caring lady, 55yrs, feminine, romantic, loves life. Varied interests. Just missing that special someone. Call me lets chat. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431125**

MARRIED lady 39yrs with discreet gent for those intimate little extras. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box: 429851**

DONNA, vivacious slim brunette, 48, lives for today, fit and fun loving, seeks active, easygoing male for companionship. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423477**

ANNA, 53yrs, attractive blonde lady, with lovely curves. Seeking man any age for no strings discreet fun. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box: 429721**

JULIE, 47, blonde hair, brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, seeks male 45-60 for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431053**

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ATTRACTIVE lady, 60 something. Well educated & sophisticated. Hoping to meet a nice gent to share life's pleasures. Call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430947**

WARM loving lady. Slim, attractive, mature 30yrs. Loves sport, music, cinema. GSOH up for anything fun. Hoping to meet kindly gent with GSOH, looks/age unimportant. Any area, I love to travel and willing to relocate. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430843**

ATTRACTIVE dark haired lady, 52yrs, kind & compassionate. Just missing a nice chap for romance. Call me, let's chat, meet up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430949**

ANNE, has an interesting proposition, spice up your love life, call to hear what I'm looking for. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430953**

CAROLINE, 58yrs, caring kind lady. Outgoing, slim & attractive. Hoping to meet a kind gent, looks unimportant, must be caring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430951**

Single Men

JAY, looking for a really good fun lady, for date nights and great times together. So get in touch I would really love to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431199**

RIK, fit mature guy, 58, slim build, good looks, blue eyes, enjoys photography, fun and the outdoors, looking for a lady to share life with. **Text only replies. Box No: 6239139**

SINGLE male, 52, various interests, indoor & outdoor, sports, nature, country walks would like to meet busty, slim female. **Text only replies. Box No: 4362337**

FUN to be with male, slim with blonde hair & blue eyes, looking for that special lady. **Text only. Mailbox No: 6223970**

STAFFS cricket loving male 65 from north staffs. Hoping 2 bowl a maiden over fine leg or firm bouncers r u game 4 a match. **Text Only. Box: 6189295**

CHRISTOPHER, 48yrs, single dad. Professional, own home, hard working & kind. Just missing that special lady in my life. You must be genuine & looking for LTR/romance. **Text Only: Box: 4066804**

WHITE male in Coventry, brown hair, blue eyes, athletic build, easy going, laid back type looking for companionship and what ever else. **Text only replies. Mailbox no: 6246796**

MATURE man, OHOC, reasonably solvent, WLTm mature lady, for dining out, good conversation, theatre etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431299**

DAVID, 65, considered attractive, semi retired, GSOH, enjoys playing golf, eating out, drinks, socialising and travel. Looking for a lady, 60-80, who is fun to be, attractive and I hope to share happy time with. I hope you are out there. Give me a ring. Shropshire area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431181**

HI I'm a submissive male, looking for a dominant female, I am an occasional cross dresser, looking for somebody who will hopefully understand and be nice and hopefully we can start a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431075**

TONY, Poet, 68, 5ft 8ins tall, looks considerably younger than my age and would love to talk to you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430583**

TALL mature male, submissive, seeks dominant female. Age immaterial, for relationship and fun. **Text only. Mailbox No: 421961**

WIDOWER, 65, retired, looking for that special lady, age and looks unimportant, for meals out, days out and to spend some quality time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431155**

COLIN, 51, caring, loving, seeks caring, loving, cuddly, large lady, 50-60, for LTR, love, romance. Must like kisses, cuddles and holding hands. **Text only replies. Box No: 6154531**

MALE, 50s slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for an attractive slim lady to call his own. **Text only replies. Box No: 6223970**

MALE 60s, wishes to meet lady for NS fun and evenings out. Age or looks immaterial. All texts answered. **Text only replies. Mailbox no: 424616**

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CROSS dresser, retired, mid 60s, slim, very fit, well educated, passionate about the arts, would love to be wined and dined, by a man or a cross dresser. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431087**

JAMES a fit 65yr bl CD in Birmingham, lovely figure when dressed. **ATA Text only. Box no: 4758692**

BI male, 70ish, would like to meet same for friendship. **Text only replies. Box No: 6199442**

GAY attractive feminine female would like to meet other gay feminine females for friendship possible relationship. Get in touch. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6062854**

BI late 70s, WLTm Gay or BI for friendship. I can travel. **Text only replies. Mailbox no: 6022718**

MALE, 74, 6ft, white, likes football, cars and lots of things, WLTm a male. Get back to me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431203**

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The win marked a turning point for Wolves



Crowds watch the open top bus go by with the players waving



The Wolves squad celebrating at Wembley



Wolves players on the party bus. Bully is on the left

Old golden memories of Sherpa Van Trophy win

IT was 30 years ago when Wolves fans packed out the city centre in a sea of old gold and black after a glorious Wembley victory.

In scenes reminiscent of the Championship promotion party – just a few weeks ago – thousands of supporters congregated in Wolverhampton for the team's civic parade after the Sherpa Van Trophy win in May 1988.

The triumph 30 years ago marked a turning point as the club set about climbing back through the leagues.

Graham Turner's side had lifted the Fourth Division title three weeks earlier. And Wolves had a chance to clinch another trophy at the Home of Football against Burnley. Tens of thousands of supporters travelled down to London for the Sherpa Van final – proving the club's fanbase remained as passionate as ever. And the packed civic parade back in Wolverhampton showed the city still stood firmly behind the club despite its troubles.

Goals from Andy Mutch and Robbie Dennison secured the cup and put the seal on a stunning season, which saw club legend Steve Bull score on an astonishing 52 occasions.

Unbelievable

Ally Robertson was Wolves' skipper on the day in May 1988 and described his memories of a 'fantastic' day which proved Wolves' remained a big club – despite their slump down the divisions.

The defender said: "It was just great to be part of. To see 50,000 Wolves supporters at Wembley was unbelievable, just unbelievable.

"On the way to Wembley I was thinking – even though it is horrible thing to say – I had played in the First Division all my life more or less, then we are in this little Sherpa Van final.

"On the way to Wembley, you are thinking well 'this is just a little cup game'. Then all of a sudden, we were about three miles from Wembley, and it was just gold and black everywhere.

"It was incredible. And I can still remember – just before we went out the door – saying to the lads, 'we have got to win this for them'.

"We could not believe how many fans were there,

SPORTING FEATURE

Report by David Cosgrove

And I can still remember – just before we went out the door – saying to the lads, 'we have got to win this for them'

we really couldn't believe it. I started laughing the other night when I saw the first team having their parade through the city. They won [The Championship] and are back in the Premier League. But it was similar for us on that Sunday after the Sherpa Van.

"I thought 'good God' – it shows how much it means to the supporters. When you think we had just won the fourth division and the Sherpa Van, and we had exactly the same kind of celebration, it is absolutely great."

Anticipation was huge in the build-up to the game with fans snaking around Molineux for tickets.

Up to 6,000 camped and queued for the last remaining 4,500 tickets days before the game took place, with the total attendance larger than an England versus Scotland game a week earlier. It remains Wolves' last trip to Wembley, while the crowd of 80,841 still stands as the Trophy's highest-ever attendance.

Long-awaited success on the pitch came against a backdrop of turmoil off it, with Wolves having faced liquidation and extinction in the years preceding the final. Northern Irishman Dennison, who netted Wolves' second goal, said: "It was a difficult time for the club then. They looked like they were going out of business at one point.

"And then I think the momentum started again with those couple of seasons where we got promoted and won the Sherpa Van. I think it was a crucial time really for the club. The parade the other day was sort of similar to what we went through as well. You know driving through the streets of Wolverhampton, the place was absolutely rammed.

"The celebrations afterwards were absolutely in-

credible. The fans deserved to get back on track again and that is what we were able to produce at that time again."

Legendary full-back Andy Thompson previously revealed how the Wolves players were stunned by the number of supporters who had travelled to Wembley.

The Featherstone-born defender said: "We knew how big the crowd was going to be, but nothing prepared us for what we saw.

"I'd never seen a group of people that big in my life and the Wolves fans were in great voice. It set us up for a day to remember."

Meanwhile club-record goalscorer Bully described the scale of the club's support as making 'the hairs stand up on the back of your neck'.

In his review of the match, Bully said: "Unbelievable! That's the only way I can describe our victory at Wembley, which rounded off a quite incredible season.

If someone had told me last August that by the end of May Wolves would have won the Fourth Division title and the Sherpa Van Trophy and I would score 52 goals, I would have laughed at them and told them they were mad.

Dream

"But it's happened and it's a dream come true. Going to Wembley from our hotel I don't think it really dawned on us we were actually going to play in a final until we got about three miles from the ground.

"Then we saw Wolves supporters in their hats and scarves waving and shouting at us, and that's when the nerves really started coming.

"And to walk out for the start of a match in front of more than 80,000 supporters was another quite unbelievable and unforgettable experience.

"I wouldn't mind playing at Wembley every week." Keith Downing, who completed the full 90 minutes in Wolves' midfield, said: "I think at the time back in 1988 it was a revival of the club itself.

"I suppose it is a fond memory to a lot of supporters. It was the first sign of a recovery and the Sherpa Van was the icing on the cake, because the main priority was to get back up through the leagues.

Proud Wolves boss Turner said at the time that the Sherpa Van success had been the highpoint of the season.

Hit the Jackpot with bingo hall darts night

DOUBLE world champion Adrian Lewis will be the headline act when darts stars head to Wednesbury next month.

Stoke-born Lewis, nicknamed Jackpot, lifted the PDC crown at Alexandra Palace in successive years, 2011 and 2012. He will be joined at Mecca Bingo on Friday, July 6 by Andy 'The Viking' Fordham, who won the BDO world championship at Lakeside in 2004, Keith Deller and Colin 'Jaws' Lloyd for an evening on the oche. Deller, the surprise winner of the 1983 world title, is now managing Lewis.

For darts enthusiasts, there will be the chance to try their luck in a three-dart challenge for the chance to play against the greats. Prizes will be up for grabs including signed memorabilia, the show dartboard and front row seats with a fridge full of beers.

The event is open to over-18s only.

Doors open at the Dudley Street venue at 6pm and tickets start at £20 and are available from skiddle.com

World Cup special as stars take questions

DARLASTON Town (1874) FC are holding an Evening of World Cup Football with former Wolves Stars Matt Murray and Joleon Lescott as special guests looking back on their careers and Wolves promotion winning year.

Premier League, FA Cup and Football League Cup winner and former England International Joleon Lescott will be joined by Wolves 2003 play-off final man-of-the-match and Sky Sports pundit Matt Murray.

The evening on July 7 will feature one of the World Cup quarter final games at 7pm. Following the game Lescott and Murray, both highly respected football pundits who are still closely involved with Wolves, will reflect on their own careers, the rise of Wolves under Nuno Espirito Santo and will answer questions on today's Premier League and of course England's World Cup performances.

Memorabilia from Wolves promotion winning year will be auctioned on the night as will a signed shirt of Walsall FC. The event is at The Paycare Ground, Bentley Leisure Pavilion

Race against time for student car entry

BIRMINGHAM City University's Formula Student racing team is going from strength to strength.

With the end goal of displaying and competing a car at the prestigious Silverstone circuit, students from all disciplines work tirelessly all year to build a single-seat open-wheel vehicle from scratch. They are in charge of everything: from concept to design, parts and manufacturing. Members of faculty staff can only advise.

The Formula Student competition is an international engineering challenge run by the iMechE (institute of mechanical engineers), where teams of university students are tasked with building a car to certain specifications in order to compete in a number of different categories, including endurance, sprint, design and business report, over a long weekend.

Flying high after last year's competition where the team achieved their highest score yet, they're in a race against time to finish their car for the global showdown in July.



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Keates will not be held to ransom

WALSALL boss Dean Keates says he won't be held to ransom by any player after revealing he pulled the plug on a transfer earlier this week.

The 39-year-old believed he was close to making his third addition of the summer on Tuesday, only for the player to then demand more money.

The Saddlers had already agreed terms with the player before he then asked for extra cash. And that prompted Keates to pull out.

"I thought I had something over the line on Tuesday," the boss said. "They wanted more money. We agreed. Then they want more again."

"They kept moving the goalposts and I got to the point where I felt enough was enough. I pulled out myself and said they were being unrealistic."

"I thought the deal was agreed. It was written up. And then they come back and ask for X, Y and Z."

"You get to the point where you think, 'If you are going to keep doing those things' you're not the type of person I want at the football club. If you're going to go back on something you said you wanted when we have got to a point where all parties are happy - to then move the goalposts, I didn't feel that was right."

While Keates was disappointed to miss out on the signing, he revealed other deals are being worked on.

But he said things can move slowly at this time of year with a lot of players still on holiday.

"We have got a few things in the pipeline and a few offers out there," he continued. "But it's that time of year - it's silly season."

"But a lot of players are still away on holiday. A lot want to have a bit of a break from football and think over their options."

Broadhurst chases unique double win

GOLFER Paul Broadhurst says he would love to add a rare win on home soil to his glittering Senior Tour CV - and create some history while doing it.

The Walsall-born player is aiming to become just the second person to win the Senior PGA Championship on both sides of the Atlantic. He completed the American leg at Harbor Shores Golf Club last month, with the Staysure PGA Seniors Championship taking place at London Golf Club from August 2-5.

However, Broadhurst said: "I've only won twice in England, at Hoylake and St Mellion. I usually don't worry about where I win, I just like winning, but it would be nice to win in England for once."

"It has been quite a few years since I've done that. The two weeks in July and August, first at The Senior Open, then the PGA Seniors, fit into my schedule and I'm really happy to have the chance to play back-to-back events in the UK."

Wacka gives Josh a seal of approval

DEAN KEATES has revealed a glowing reference from Walsall legend Jimmy Walker was one of the factors behind the signing of Josh Ginnelly.

The winger, who had a loan spell with Saddlers back in 2016, rejoined the club on a one-year deal last week.

Since leaving the Banks's, Ginnelly has twice won promotion from the National League with Lincoln and Tranmere respectively.

And it was while he was with the Imps that he worked with Walker, who is a goalkeeping coach

at Sincil Bank. "Josh was an easy signing for me because I actually went for him at Wrexham last year," Keates said. "I had done all my checks then about his character and what he is like in the changing room and what he offers the team."

"And he had been at Lincoln so I spoke to Whack (Walker) about him and he sung his praises."

"He is young. He has won two promotions and he has been in changing rooms that have achieved things."

"He is coming in with the objective of cementing his place in the starting XI. That is what he wants. He's hungry."

Keates believes Ginnelly's first spell at Walsall will help him to quickly settle. But he says that wasn't a factor in the transfer. "Josh has been at the club before but I didn't sign him for that reason," the boss added. "He has bought into what I have told and I am looking forward to working with him. He's direct, he gets at people and he commits defenders."

Chief scout joins ranks at Saddlers

DEAN KEATES has appointed a new chief scout as he continues to work to build a talent-spotting network at Walsall.

The Saddlers have operated without an official team of scouts in recent years, something Keates has vowed to address.

He has now filled one of the key positions, bringing in Gary Jenkins. He has vast experience of scouting and will work with a network of former Saddlers who have offered to help Keates in his hunt for new players.

"The scouting network is coming along well," the boss said. "I have brought Gary Jenkins in as chief scout. He is local and knows what the club is about."

"And I'm in conversation with ex-players around the country so when I do have an interest in a player they can go and look at them."

"It's something I have built with the help of Steve Davies from the Supporters' Trust."

"I get so many names put to me but I can't watch all these players myself. But for me to have active people out there in this network it allows us to cover all bases."

Keates feels it's vital Walsall are able to monitor players in the Football League and below.

"That is what I feel, as a club, we need to be doing. A lot of other clubs are doing it now and I think it's vital so that we don't miss out on players," he added.

"The final decision on a player will always be mine but at least I know I have got people out there watching these players."

Bloxwich rugby club looking for recruits

BLOXWICH Rugby Club are embarking on a recruitment drive during the summer and is engaging with the community by hosting free 'rugby fit' sessions.

These start next Wednesday, June 13, not at the club, but on the green at the end of Bloxwich High Street.

Sessions are open to anyone 17 and over. Meet at 6.30pm at Stafford Road Sports Club or at 7pm on Bloxwich Green.

Contact Phil Samuel on 07790 947723 for further details.

WALSALL GET LOSING DRAW

WALSALL saw opponents Smethwick rack up 313-5 in the Birmingham League premier division, but managed to claim a losing draw, closing at 198-9 in reply.

Former Coventry & N.W. keeper Amrinder Brar hit 19 fours and three sixes in an innings of 140 for Smethwick. He and Waqar Saleem (56) put together an opening stand of 121 and Gurinder Singh added 46.

Walsall were helped by a fourth wicket stand of 73 between Alex Mellor (56) and Bruce Thomson (42).

C & R Hawks completed a five-wicket win at Streetly in division two after Kabir Ali (5-27) and Johar Ahmed (4-49) combined to dismiss the home side for 152.

At 80-5, Hawks were teetering but Saqib Akbar (47 not out) and Iftikhar Khan (23 not out) saw them home without further alarm after Sagar Mangalorkar had taken 4-63.

In division three, the match between Pelsall and Newport could have gone either way, but ended as a draw as the home side finishing on 187-9, chasing Newport's 196-9. The bulk of the Newport runs were scored by Mark Downes (49), Jamie Prew (47) and Sam Douglas (43), while Danny Pennell hit 31 for Pelsall.

Hosts Bloxwich were easily beaten by Cannock in the Staffs Clubs championship. After opting to bat, the visitors' overseas player Faizan Khan hit 17 fours and three sixes in a 104-ball 132 as his side totalled 272-7.

Bloxwich were skittled for 148 in reply, some 124 runs short.

Aldridge were dismissed for 148, chasing Brewood's 237-8.

Walsall YPF enjoyed a seven-wicket win at Highcroft & Great Barr. The hosts, who opted to bat, made 152. Mohammed Zubair and Gurbhej Singh, not out, both made 50 in Walsall YPF's reply.

Racing Preacher in fast lane



John Shipley and Andy Paynes tackle the Isle of Man TT course Picture: Ryan Crawley

AFTER taking a bold leap of faith, Walsall's self-proclaimed 'Racing Preacher' has fulfilled his dream of competing in the Isle of Man TT.

Andy Haynes, a Walsall-based Methodist preacher, finished 22nd in the sidecar race after moving up nine places from his starting position alongside the experienced John Shipley. That followed a 23rd place in his circuit debut the weekend before, where he broke through the 100mph barrier.

"It's something I've wanted to do for almost 30 years, but life just got in the way," said Haynes. "To come to my first TT, and have

this level of reliability, to finish 22nd is amazing." Ordinarily seen leading church services, Haynes, aged 45, had trained specifically for the Isle of Man for three years - his passion to become a sidecar racer ignited by a visit to the famous course in 2013.

Haynes uses religion to guide him through each encounter. "I pray before every race that all the racers stay safe," he said. "Some drivers even ask me to say a prayer for them."

He is keen to return to the TT. But before then will continue to compete - starting at Oliver's Mount in Scarborough, later this month.

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